conclusion of the donors meeting in Paris on 1 February, made it clear that our contribution would be included in the category of "special joint financing", subject to procurement conditions to be notified. The Government have now decided that the United Kingdom contribution should be untied for procurement purposes.

British Goods (Procurement)

Mr. Bowen Wells asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will estimate how much procurement of British goods has been forgone by failure to subscribe to the World Bank fund for Africa.

Mr. Raison: The World Bank's special facility for sub-Saharan Africa is not expected to become operational until 1 July. When it does, British firms should be able to bid for contracts financed from the facility, and under the special jount financing provided by the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. This follows from the Government's decision to untie the United Kingdom contribution to the special joint financing, which is now being communicated to the World Bank.

Ethiopia

Mr. Andrew F. Bennett asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has as to the most recent estimates of the amount of grain that will arrive in the port of Assab in Ethiopia for each of the next three months, and as to how much will be in store at the port for each of those months.

Mr. Raison: Expected landings and stocks of relief food commodities at the port of Assab in the next three months are:

Month	*Estimated landings (metric tonnes)*	*Estimated month end stocks (metric tonnes)*
April	90,000	86,000
May	65,000	91,000
June	30,000	60,000

Grain-based commodities will account for approximately 80 per cent. of the above figures. Further shipments are likely to be arranged in the months ahead. Month end stocks will fluctuate according to the availability of vehicles. Target off-take is 3,000 tonnes a day against present average off-take of about 2,000 tonnes a day.

Food Aid (Ethiopia and Sudan)

Mr. Teddy Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish a table showing the amount of food aid actually delivered to Sudan and Ethiopia, respectively, by the United Kingdom and the rest of the European Economic Community, respectively, over the past 12 months.

Mr. Raison: The available figures, which cover the period since the begining of 1984, are as fiollows:

	Sudan	*Ethiopia (tonnes)*
European Community		
Cereals	16,600	133,000
Milk Powder	3,100	5,100
Butter oil	1,400	2,300
Beans	—	2,400
Sugar	—	100
United Kingdom		
Cereals	*28,500	26,500

No figures are available for deliveries by other member states of the Community.

* Wheat equivalent.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Members' Salaries and Allowances

Mr. Thurnham asked the Lord Privy Seal if he will list the costs for 1983-84, and the estimated costs for 1984-85 and 1985-86, of Members of Parliament's salaries and allowances.

Mr. Biffen: The actual costs for 1983-84 and the estimated costs for 1984-85 and 1985-86 of salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament are as follows:

	£
1983-84	25,292,727·36
1984-85	27,906,000·00
1985-86	29,012,000·00

Notes:

1. The above costs include Parliamentary salaries, employers national insurance contributions, resettlement grants, Members' rail, air and car travel expenses, secretarial and additional costs allowances.

2. Secretarial travel and redundancy expenses, drafting assistance for private Members' Bills, VDU expenses, financial assistance to Opposition parties and Exchequer payments to the Parliamentary contributory pension fund and the Members' fund are not included.

3. All the above payments are made from the Parliament and Privy Council: House of Commons Vote, class VIII, Vote. 2.

Staff, Police and Security Personnel

Mr. Thurnham asked the hon. Member for Berwick upon Tweed, as representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will list the costs for 1983-84 and the estimated costs for 1984-85 and 1985-86, of the salaries and allowances paid to staff of the House and to the police and security services.

Mr. Beith: The costs of salaries and allowances of House staff and of payments to the Metropolitan police for maintenance of security services in the House are as follows:

	1983-84 (actual) £	*1984-85 (estimated)* £	*1985-86 (estimated)* £
(1) Staff salaries and allowances	9,220,727	10,092,000	10,769,000
(2) Police and security services	2,467,455	2,750,000	2,902,000

Sittings

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Lord Privy Seal if, pursuant to his answer of 11 March, *Official Report*, column 15, he will state, week by week for the current Session, the average time of rising of the House from Monday to Thursday.

Mr. Biffen: The average times of rising of the House from Monday to Thursday for each week during the present session were as follows:

Date	*Time*
1984	
6-8 November	10.27 pm
12-15 November	11.12 pm
19-22 November	11.43 pm
26-29 November	1.19 am
3-6 December	1.34 am
10-13 December	12.37 am
17-20 December	2.35 am
1985	
9-10 January	10.59 pm
14-17 January	1.54 am
21-24 January	11.37 pm
28-31 January	11.24 pm
4-7 February	1.42 am
11-14 February	1.15 am
18-21 February	1.29 am
25-28 February	12.09 am
4-7 March	6.27 am
11-14 March	11.48 pm

Television Licence Fee

Mr. Ashton asked the Lord Privy Seal whether, when the new television licence fee arrangements are announced, he will arrange for this to be made as an oral statement to the House instead of the usual written question.

Mr. Biffen: It is not the normal practice to indicate in advance the form which announcements will take. This announcement will be made in the manner thought most appropriate having regard to its importance and other relevant factors.

ENVIRONMENT

Grant-Related Expenditure

Mr. Forth asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has to make available his Department's publication, "Grant-Related Expenditure 1985-86."

Mr. Waldegrave: My right hon. Friend has today placed copies of this document in the Library of the House. Copies have also been sent to every local authority in England and to the local authority associations.

Sir Anthony Grant asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what adjustments he estimates will be made, in the year commencing 1 April 1986 to the grant-related expenditure assessments and expenditure targets of the councils of London boroughs and metropolitan districts so as to reflect the increased responsibilities of those councils for buildings at present owned by the Greater London council or the metropolitan county councils and transferred to the boroughs and districts, as proposed in the Local Government Bill.

Mr. Waldegrave: The grant related expenditure assessments which the GLC and metropolitan county councils would have received for all services transferred to the lower tier will be redistributed to the borough and district councils. If expenditure targets are retained, targets for the successor authorities will also be adjusted to reflect the extra spending transferred to them. The detailed arrangements are now being discussed with the representatives of the authorities concerned.

Nuclear Waste

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for the Environment whether he is now in a position to announce the further sites for consideration for the reception of low and intermediate level nuclear wastes.

Mr. Waldegrave: No. However, I expect NIREX to be in a position in a few months' time to announce alternative possible sites for shorter-lived wastes.

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for the Environment whether population density is a criterion in site selection for a nuclear repository; and whether it is regarded as a radiological or a planning consideration.

Mr. Waldegrave: The radiological requirements are set out in the publication, "Disposal facilities on land for low and intermediate-level radioactive wastes: principles for the protection of the human environment" (HMSO 1984) and the developer will be expected to show that the facility will comply with them, both for existing and for future populations. Current population density will be one relevant planning consideration, and will be covered in the environmental assessment NIREX will be required to prepare for each site.

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for the Environment for what reason he abandoned the initial public inquiry announced in his statement in the *Official Report*, 25 October, column 154, and replaced it by a special development order in a further statement on 24 January, *Official Report*, column 1146.

Mr. Waldegrave: The situation has been changed by my right hon. Friend's further request to NIREX to investigate at least three possible sites for each type of disposal facility. It would be unnecessarily time-consuming and repetitious to have a number of separate local inquiries of limited scope into geological investigations. The revised procedure, incorporating a special development order, will avoid such unnecessary delay and uncertainty, and will also provide an opportunity for a debate in Parliament.

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for the Environment when the study on disposal and storage options by his Department, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee to determine the best practical environmental option is due to report; and whether the report will be published.

Mr. Waldegrave: A report will be published after the necessary studies have been completed later this year.

Shooting List

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he has any plans to return the redshank, the curlew and the stock dove to the shooting list.

Mr. Waldegrave: I have no immediate plans to add the redshank and curlew to schedule 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, but I have asked the Nature Conservancy Council to review the position.

The European Commission has been asked to add the United Kingdom to the list of countries in which the stock dove may be hunted. If agreement to this is secured, that species will be added to Schedule 2, Part II, to the Act, that is species which can be shot by authorised persons at any time.

Repair Schemes

Mr. Roy Hughes asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what was the outcome of discussions between his Department, the National Housebuilders' Council and the Building Societies' Association concerning the acceptability of various repair schemes for pre-cast reinforced concrete houses and flats for mortgage purposes; when this information will be conveyed to local authorities; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Gow: I refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Eastleigh (Sir D. Price) on 20 February at column *485*. My Department and the Welsh Office had a meeting with the local authority associations on 5 March and a further meeting is being arranged for 27 March, involving also representatives of the National House Building Council and the Building Societies Association. I will make a further announcement as soon as possible.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Dr. Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if the sites of special scientific interest guidance criteria require the Nature Conservancy Council to notify as a site of special scientific interest rough grazing and heather moorland which regularly supports 1 per cent. or more of the British breeding population of a species of bird listed upon both schedule 1 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Annex one of EC directive 79/4092.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: The Nature Conservancy Council would normally consider it appropriate to notify as sites of special scientific interest well defined localities which have contained 1 per cent. or more of the total British breeding population of any native British species for 5 years or more. Sites with rare species or very small populations do not normally qualify for such designation unless the habitat in which they are found is also scarce within the region concerned.

The Nature Conservancy Council's explanatory pamphlet "The Selection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest" gives further details of the selection criteria, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Dr Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment how many requests for section 29 orders under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 have been made by the Nature Conservancy Council; how many have been refused and why; and whether damage or loss of sites of special scientific interest has occurred as a result.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: The Nature Conservancy Council has to date requested 17 orders throughout Great Britain. 14 have been made (10 in England, two in Scotland and two in Wales). In the remaining three cases I was not fully satisfied that the site met the criteria set out in section 29 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. There has been no further damage to these sites following the decision that an order should not be made. In the case of one of the three sites, agreement has now been reached with the owner. The other two sites are now fully protected under section 28 of the 1981 Act.

Wild Birds (Conservation)

Dr. Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment how many sites have been identified with the United Kingdom as fulfilling the criteria for listing under *(a)* the Ramsar convention on wetlands of international importance and *(b)* EC directive 79/409 on the conservation of wild birds; and if he will state the time table for listing these areas.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: The Nature Conservancy Council has identified 129 sites which meet the criteria for listing under the Ramsar convention, and 151 which satisfy the requirements for listing under EC directive 79/409. Further such sites may be identified in the future.

The listing of these sites is being carried out as part of the notification and re-notification of sites of special scientific interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which is expected to be substantially complete by the end of 1987.

Edlingham Castle

Mr. Beith asked the Secretary of State for the Environment when he now expects restoration work at Edlingham castle to be completed; and at what total cost to public funds.

Mr. Macfarlane: The Historical Buildings and Monuments Commission is now responsible for the management and maintenance of Edlingham castle. I understand that the consolidation works now being carried out are proceeding satisfactorily, and that the commission expects the final cost to be less than that originally estimated. If the hon. Member would like further details, he may wish to approach the chairman of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

First-time Home Purchasers

Mr. Murphy asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on assistance available to first-time home purchasers in areas where property prices are above the national average.

Sir George Young: First-time home purchasers can qualify for benefits under the homeloan scheme, if they buy homes costing less than the price limit for their region. These price limits are based on the prices actually being paid in each region by first time buyers, and thus are highest in areas where property prices are above the national average. They are set at a level which is intended to allow two-thirds of first time buyers in each region to satisfy this condition of the Scheme.

Domestic Water Supplies

Mr. Hardy asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what information he has as to the number of homes in each water authority area which do not enjoy a satisfactory supply of pipes and potable water.

Mr. Macfarlane: Water authorities submit annual plans to my Department which this year will contain information about the quantity of water supplied in the year which failed to meet certain standards laid down in the EC directive on quality of water intended for human consumption. My Department is also regularly informed about water undertakers' progress in reducing lead concentrations in water. This information is expressed in supply zones and population served.

Housing (Leeds)

Dr. Hampson asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what has been the precentage increase in house improvements in Leeds for 1984 or the latest year for which figures are available.

Sir George Young: The total of conversions and improvements of local authority dwellings and of grant aided renovations of housing association and private dwellings in the first nine months was 16 per cent. higher in 1984 than in 1983.

Dr. Hampson asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what has been the percentage increase in housing starts in Leeds, in both the private and public sectors, for 1984 compared with 1983 and compared with the United Kingdom as a whole.

Sir George Young: The following percentage changes calculated from the number of starts reported in Leeds and published in "Local Housing Statistics" and estimated starts in the United Kingdom published in table 1.2 of "Housing and Construction Statistics" No. 19.

House-building starts January to September 1983 and of 1984: percentage changes

	Public	*Private*	*All*
Leeds	−58	+30	−1
United Kingdom (provisional)	−16	−7	−9

System-built Housing

Mr. Litherland asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what information he has as to examples of the transformation of large panel concrete system-built estates built in the 1960s; and if he will name the local authorities involved.

Mr. Gow: At least 80 local authorities are introducing locally-based management to improve the quality of life on different estates including those built with large panel systems. 20 examples of such initiatives are described in the Department's Priority Estates Project Survey "Local Housing Management", a copy of which is in the Library. Seven of the estates concerned are modern concrete complex developments.

Housing Estates (Manchester)

Mr. Litherland asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what information he has regarding the marketing exercise and the private developers' findings relating to the Wellington street (Bison) and the Turkey lane (Unit Camus) housing estates in Manchester; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Gow: The city council has sought a special determination for housing subsidy to continue to be payable after demolition of the dwellings at Wellington street. In considering whether to make a determination, I expect to take account of any alternatives to demolition, including disposal to the private sector. The city council has been asked to provide further information in support of its application. I would expect to receive similar information should the council seek a special determination in respect of the Turkey lane estate.

Mr. Litherland asked the Secretary of State for the Environment whether his assessment of the structural state of Wellington street housing estate, built by Bison (Northern) Concrete Ltd., was such that effective improvements to the estate were impossible.

Mr. Gow: It is for a local authority to make a structural survey of dwellings which it proposes to demolish and to offer it in support of any application for continued subsidy following demolition.

Mr. Litherland asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what account he took, when consenting to Manchester city council's proposal to demolish Wellington street estate, of its expenditure of £700,000 in an attempted design improvement scheme.

Mr. Gow: My consent was not required for the demolition of the dwellings at Wellington street.

Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission

Sir Hugh Rossi asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what additional funds will be made available to the Historic Buildings and Momuments Commission on the projected transfer to it of buildings at present vested in the Greater London council and metropolitan counties; and if these sums will equal at minimum in real terms the amounts currently being spent on such buildings.

Mr. Macfarlane: In considering the additional resources that the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission will need for the historic buildings that it is proposed should transfer to it from the ownership of the GLC under clause 43 of the Local Government Bill, proper account will be taken of the sums being sent in respect of these properties prior to that council's abolition.

Departmental Offices (Marsham Street)

Mr. Rooker asked the Secretary of State for the Environment to what he attributes the process of carbonation in his Department's main office building and the spalling of concrete with rust staining; whether calcium chloride was used as an additive to the concrete and if tests have been carried out on the level of chlorides in the concrete; and if he will make a statement.

Sir George Young: I will answer this question shortly.

Mr. Rooker asked the Secretary of State for the Environment when his Department's main office building in Marsham street, London, was designed; over what period it was constructed; when it was completed; what was the cost of the construction; who were the architects; and who were the builders.

Sir George Young: No. 2 Marsham street was designed by the Ministry of Public Building and Works in conjunction with the architects, Robert Atkinson and Partners. Design work commenced in 1959. A contract for foundation and basement work was undertaken between July 1963 and November 1964. The main contract, undertaken by Bernard Sunley and Sons Limited, started in November 1964 and was completed in March 1971.

Final fitting out was handled as a separate contract and occupation of the building was phased throughout the summer of 1971. The total cost of construction, excluding professional fees, site purchase and clearance was £7·975 million.

Mr. Rooker asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the estimate of the future life of his Department's headquarters building; and what remedial works are planned, or are necessary to the main structural elements.

Sir George Young: Campbell Reith Hill, the PSA consultant investigating the concrete defects in the superstructure of 2 Marsham street indicate that, provided the sample cover readings are representative of the whole building, then the sixty year design life should be achieved.

First-aid remedial action to spalled areas has been undertaken.

When repairs start, access to the end walls of the buildings will be provided so that a corrosion survey, a full cover depth check and carbonation survey can be completed. Areas where these tests show that spalling of the concrete is likely will have the concrete removed, the reinforcement cleaned and the concrete repaired. Consideration will be given to applying a membrane to the entire surface of these walls to prevent further carbonation, ingress of moisture and air, so as to prevent corrosion of the reinforcement.

Cracks to the precast concrete mullions are being monitored for movement.

Calcium Chloride

Mr. Rooker asked the Secretary of State for the Environment when the use of calcium chloride as an additive to concrete was discontinued and prohibited by the Property Services Agency in connection with contracts let or supervised by it.

Sir George Young: Calcium chloride and concrete additives containing calcium chloride were banned on PSA works in September 1974.

Molesworth

Mr. Weetch asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he has received any proposals to extinguish the public right of way along Old Weston road, near Molesworth.

Mr. Macfarlane: I will answer this question shortly.

Local Government Inquiry

Dr. Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if, in the light of his announcement on 6 February, *Official Report*, column 957 of an inquiry into the practices and procedures in local government, he will prepare and place in the Library a paper outlining the current rights, responsibilities and duties of elected members as referred to in paragraph *(a)* of the terms of reference of the inquiry; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: The evidence to be submitted in due course to the Widdecombe committee by the Department is likely to cover the points raised by the hon. Member. It is because the rights, responsibilities and duties of councillors are unclear that this issue has been referred to the committee. Copies of the Department's evidence will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Managers (Accounting)

Mr. Wainwright asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what accounting developments are being made in his Department to give linemanagers better information about the cost and condition of the capital assets they are managing.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: Under the Property Repayment Services (PRS) system introduced in April 1983, the Property Services Agency raises charges on occupants of the civil estate which cover market rents, maintenance and other running costs. The system is being progressively refined in order to reflect as closely as possible the opportunity costs of departments' occupation of the civil estate. To support PRS, the agency has recently implemented a new computerprised system of estate records, which gives its estates staff access to a centralised property data base.

To assist control of expenditure on maintenance of properties, a micro computer system has now been installed in all the agency's district works offices, and trials of enhanced property-based budgetary control arrangements are under way. A new system of regular building inspections has also been instituted as a basis for recording future maintenance requirements and their relative priority.

Further improvements in management information will form part of the longer-term strategy adopted by PSA for the implementation of information technology throughout the agency.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Mechanical Engineering Products

Mr. Hoyle asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what was the average value per tonne of total United Kingdom exports of mechanical engineering products compared with the average value per tonne of total imports of mechanical engineering products into France, West Germany, Italy and Sweden in the latest year for which figures are available;

(2) what was the average value per tonne of total United Kingdom imports of mechanical engineering products compared with the average value per tonne of imports of mechanical engineering products into France, West Germany, Italy and Sweden in the latest year for which figures are available.

Mr. Channon: The information is in the table.

*Mechanical engineering products**
Average value per tonne traded (US$) 1983

	Imports	*Exports*
United Kingdom	5,870	5,550
France	5,400	—
Federal Republic of Germany	4,730	—
Italy	6,030	—
Sweden	5,830	—

* Taken as the following standard international trade classification headings 722, 723, 724, 726, 727.22, 727.29, 728.43, 736.1, 736.2, 736.7, 741.4-6, 744, 745.22, 745.25 and 812.1.
Source: OECD.

Iron and Steel (Prices)

Miss Boothroyd asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what information he has as to the level of increases in prices of *(a)* steel scrap, *(b)* cylinder iron and *(c)* pig iron for each of the last five years for which records are available.

Mr. Butcher: I have the following information on the price of scrap metal which is derived from the publication "Metal Bulletin".

Ferrous scrap price movements (OA grade)

	Average price £ per tonne	*Index*
1979		
5 January	46-50	100·0
6 April	57	122·6
6 July	52	111·85
5 October	51	109·7
1980		
4 January	47-50	102·2
3 April	46	98·8
4 July	37	79·6
3 October	32	68·8
1981		
9 January	30	64·5
3 April	32	68·8
3 July	32	68·8
2 October	31	66·7
1982		
8 January	40	86·0
2 April	43-50	93·5
2 July	33	71·0
1 October	25	53·8
1983		
7 January	27-50	59·1
8 April	40-50	87·1
1 July	40-50	87·1
7 October	46	98·9
1984		
6 January	57-50	123·7
6 April	55	118·3
6 July	64	137·6
5 October	70	150·5
1985		
4 January	69	148·4
8 March	86-50	186·0

I have no information on cylinder iron and pig iron.

Scrap Metal and Castings

Miss Boothroyd asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, what representations he has received concerning the scrap metal industry during the last 12 months.

Mr. Butcher: My Department has received letters from some 60 undertakings complaining about the price of ferrous scrap and calling for the imposition of export controls. The Minister of State for Industry has recently held discussions with both the British Independent Steel Producers Association and the British Scrap Federation.

Miss Boothroyd asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has any plans to introduce export controls on scrap metal as a raw material.

Mr. Butcher: No. National controls would be ineffective. United Kingdom scrap would merely be shipped to other member states and then exported to third countries.

Software Products Scheme

Mr. Alan Williams asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many applications have been received under the software products scheme; how many have been refused and how many are being processed; what is the value of total grants so far approved; how much is under negotiation; how much remains uncommitted; how the ratio of rejected applications compares with that under other section 8 schemes under the Industry Act 1972; and how the administrative cost per application processed under the software scheme compares with the administrative cost of processing each application under other section 8 schemes.

Mr. Butcher: The information is as follows.

571 proposals have been received under the software products scheme; 180 have been rejected; 20 are currently being processed. The value of total grants for the 371 cases approved so far is around £41 million. Grants potentially totalling £3 million are currently under negotiation. Of the £12 million announced for the SPS last year over one half has so far been committed. The ratio of rejected to approved applications is 1:2. This compares with 1:3 for the sectoral schemes operated under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972. Figures for individual case processing costs in respect of the software products scheme and other sectoral schemes under the Industry Act 1972 are not available.

Japan (Imports)

Mr. Alton asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if, in the light of the European Commission's recent decision to impose a tariff against excavators from Japan, he has any plans to instigate action against any other imports from that country.

Mr. Channon: The European Commission is at present investigating three possible instances of Japanese dumping of imports which might lead to the instigation of similar provisional anti-dumping duties. It is open to any industry which believes that it is being similarly injured by unfairly priced imports from whatever source to request the Commission to investigate them and the Commission has the competence to introduce the appropriate remedies.

Overseas Trade Fairs

Mr. Grylls asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many overseas trade fairs were supported by the British Overseas Trade Board in 1984; and how many he expects the British Overseas Trade Board to support in 1985 and 1986, respectively.

Mr. Fletcher: In 1984 the BOTB provided assistance to groups of British exporters at 332 overseas trade fairs. As stated in the consultation document issued by the BOTB on 3 December 1984, which is available in the Library of the House, it is expected that the programme of events supported in 1985-86 may be reduced by perhaps 5 per cent. to 10 per cent.

The consultation document also included proposals about the use of BOTB funds for 1986-87. The board will be considering the resources available for support at overseas trade fairs during that year in the light of the responses to the consultation document.

British Telecom Shares

Mr. Gould asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if he made it a condition of the placing of British Telecom shares with Kleinwort Benson prior to privatisation that no employees of the firm should deal in the shares on their own account;

(2) if, before settling his final account with Kleinwort Benson in respect of the privatisation of British Telecom, he will seek from the firm information on the number of its employees who used the firm's facilities to deal on their own account in the shares.

Mr. Butcher: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Information Technology Industry

Dr. McDonald asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if, pursuant to his answer of 21 January, *Official Report*, column *278*, he will provide a breakdown, by each sector of the information technology industry, namely, office machinery, electronic data processing equipment, telecommunications equipment, radio and electronic capital goods, electronic components and sub-assemblies and electronic consumer goods, of the balance of trade for each year since 1979;

(2) if he will publish in the *Official Report* the numbers employed in each sector of the information technology industry, namely, office machinery, electronic data processing equipment, telecommunications equipment, radio and electronic capital goods, electronic components and sub-assemblies and electronic consumer goods, for each year from 1979 to 1984.

Mr. Butcher: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Dr. McDonald asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if he will publish in the *Official Report* the average growth rates of the information technology industry in Germany, France, Japan, the United States of America and the United Kingdom between 1979 and 1984;

(2) if he will publish in the *Official Report (a)* the world market share and *(b)* the European market share of the whole information technology industry in office machinery, electronic data processing equipment, telecommunications equipment, radio and electronic capital goods, electronic components and sub-assemblies and electronic consumer goods, for each year from 1979 to 1984.

Mr. Butcher [*pursuant to the reply*, 11 March 1985, c. 23]: The available information on market shares is in the table. The United Kingdom average annual growth rate in this industry between 1979 and 1984 was 15 per cent. at current prices (8 per cent. at constant prices); comparable information for other countries is not readily available.

*Information Technology Equipment**
United Kingdom Share of OECD Exports to:

	World	*Western Europe*
1979	8·5	12·0
1980	8·4	12·2
1981	6·7	10·0
1982	7·1	11·2
1983	6·6	11·7
1984	—	—

* Taken as SITC divisions 75 and 76 plus headings 776 and 7722.
Source: OECD.

Manufacturing

Mr. Wareing asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what change has taken place in the level of manufacturing in each of the years 1979 to 1984.

Mr. Butcher: The information requested is as follows:

Index of Production—Manufacturing
Percentage change on previous year

	Percentage
1979	0·0
1980	−9·0
1981	−6·0
1982	+0·5
1983	+2·5
1984	+3·5

Information Technology (Skill Shortages)

Mr. Grylls asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action he is proposing to solve the problems of skill shortages in the information technology industries.

Mr. Butcher: Pursuant to my answer to a supplementary question asked by the hon. Member for Warrington, North (Mr. Hoyle) on 27 February 1985 at column *333*, the following are the trade balances for the years 1979-1983 and, the full-year figures not yet being available, for January-September 1984 for the information technology industries including, and excluding electronic consumer goods.

*Balance of trade for information technology industries**

	Including electronic consumer goods £ million	*Excluding electronic consumer goods £ million*
1984†	−1,794	−1,231
1983	−2,159	−1,104
1982	−1,436	−514
1981	−1,070	−361
1980	−384	−21
1979	−468	−81

* Office machinery (Activity Heading 3301 in the standard industrial classification, revised 1980), electronic data processing equipment (3302), telecommunications equipment (3441), radio and electronic capital goods (3443), electronic components and subassemblies (3444 and 3453), and electronic consumer goods (3454).

† January—September.

Regional Aid

Mr. Neil Hamilton asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations have been made to him regarding the effect of regional and other aid given to companies and persons where there is already over capacity in that particular industry; and what checks his Department makes on these matters before making grants to new firms.

Mr. Butcher [*pursuant to the reply*, 15 March 1985, c. *32*]: Representations on this subject are made from time to time. Capacity in the sector of industry concerned and the possible displacement effect of Government assistance are factors that are always taken into account before selective financial assistance, on a regional or national basis, is offered. But cases are looked at on their merits and the prime consideration, apart from additionality, is the viability of the individual proposal.

Registered Designs Act 1949 and Copyright Act 1956

Mr. Alex Carlile asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has any proposals to amend the Registered Designs Act 1949 and section 10 of the Copyright Act 1956; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Butcher [*pursuant to the reply*, 15 march 1985, c. *32*]: The Registered Designs Act 1949 and the Copyright Act 1956 are under review in the light of consultations on the Green Papers "Reform of the Law relating to Copyright, Designs and Performers' Protection" (Cmnd. 8302) and "Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation" (Cmnd. 9117). This review, which is also taking account of the recommendations contained in the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on the Ford Motor Company Limited, will be completed as soon as possible.

THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Redundant Churches Fund

Mr. Frank Field asked the hon. Member for Wokingham, as representing the Church Commissioners, if he will detail in the *Official Report* the number of churches vested in the Redundant Churches Fund since its inception; and if these data can be classified according to *(a)* the diocese of the church, *(b)* whether the church is sited in a rural, urban or city area, and *(c)* by age according to whether the building is pre-1500, 1500 to 1700, 1700 to 1800, 1800 to 1900 and post-1900.

Sir William van Straubenzee: One hundred and ninety churches have been vested in the redundant churches fund since its inception in 1969. They are, with the classifications requested, as follows:

Dioceses	*Rural*	*Urban city**	*Pre-1500*	*1500 to 1700*	*1700 to 1800*	*1800 to 1900*	*Post-1900*
Bath and Wells							
Camely St. James	X		X				
Elworthy St. Martin of Tours	X		X				
Emborough the Blessed Virgin Mary	X		X				
Hardington Bampfylde St. Mary	X		X				
Pensford St. Thomas à Becket (Tower)	X		X				
Stocklinch Ottersey St. Mary	X		X				
Upton St. James (Tower)	X		X				
Blackburn							
Blackburn Holy Trinity		X				X	
Lancaster St. John the Evangelist		X			X		
Tarleton St. Mary	X				X		
Bristol							
Inglesham St. John the Baptist	X		X				
Leigh All Saints Old Chancel	X		X				
Canterbury							
Sandwich St. Peter		X	X				
West Stourmouth All Saints	X		X				
Carlisle							
Brougham St. Ninian	X		X				
Ireby Old Chancel	X		X				
Chelmsford							
Berechurch St. Michael and All Angels (Audley Chapel)	X		X				
Chickney St. Mary	X		X				
East Horndon All Saints	X		X				
West Bergholt St. Mary Old Church	X		X				
Chester							
Birkenhead St. Mary (Tower)		X				X	
Warburton St. Werburgh Old Church	X		X				
Chichester							
Chichester St. John the Evangelist		*X				X	
Tortington St. Mary Magdalene	X		X				
Warminghurst The Holy Sepulchre	X		X				
Coventry							
Billesley All Saints	X			X			
Wolfhamcote St. Peter	X		X				

Dioceses	Rural	Urban/city*	Pre-1500	1500 to 1700	1700 to 1800	1800 to 1900	Post-1900
Ely							
Abbotsley St. Margaret (part)	X		X				
Barton Bendish St. Mary	X		X				
Cambridge All Saints		*X				X	
Cambridge St. Peter		*X	X				
Conington All Saints	X		X				
Duxford St. John the Evangelist	X		X				
Feltwell St. Nicholas	X		X				
Guyhirn Old Church	X			X			
Hockwold St. Peter	X		X				
Islington St. Mary	X		X				
Long Stanton St. Michael	X		X				
Offord D'Arcy St. Peter	X		X				
Parson Drove St. John the Baptist	X		X				
Steeple Gidding St. Andrew	X		X				
Swaffham Prior St. Cyriac and St. Julitta	X		X				
Wiggenhall St. Mary	X		X				
Exeter							
Luffincott St. James	X		X				
Parracombe St. Petrock	X		X				
Revelstoke St. Peter	X		X				
West Ogwell	X		X				
Gloucester							
Charfield St. James	X		X				
Didmarton St. Lawrence	X		X				
Eastleach Martin St. Michael and St. Martin	X		X				
Gloucester St. Nicholas		*X	X				
Lassington St. Oswald (Tower)	X		X				
Ozleworth St. Nicholas	X		X				
Tetbury St. Saviour		X				X	
Guildford							
Aldbury St. Peter and St. Paul	X		X				
Hereford							
Bridgnorth St. Leonard		X	X				
Michaelchurch St. Michael	X		X				
Moreton Jeffries	X		X				
Stretford St. Cosmos and St. Damian	X		X				
Upton Cressett St. Michael	X		X				
Wormesley St. Mary	X		X				
Yatton Chapel	X		X				
Leicester							
Brentingby St. Mary (Tower)	X		X				
Withcote Chapel	X			X			
Lichfield							
Adderley St. Peter (part 17th century)*	X					*X	
Battlefield St. Mary	X		X				
Longford Talbot Chapel	X		X				
Preston Goballs St. Martin (South Aisle)	X		X				
Lincoln							
Barnetby-le-Wold St. Mary	X		X				
Burwell St. Michael	X		X				
Clixby All Hallows	X		X				
Goltho St. George	X		X				
Great Steeping All Saints (Old Church)	X				X		
Haceby St. Margaret	X		X				
Haltham St. Benedict	X		X				
Haugham All Saints	X					X	
Kingerby St. Peter	X		X				
Normanby St. Peter	X		X				
Normanton St. Nicholas	X		X				
Redbourne St. Andrew	X		X				
Saltfleetby All Saints	X		X				
Skidbrooke St. Botolph	X		X				
Theddlethorpe All Saints	X		X				
Yarburgh St. John the Baptist	X		X				
Liverpool							
Toxteth Park St. James		*X			X		

Dioceses	*Rural*	*Urban/city**	*Pre-1500*	*1500 to 1700*	*1700 to 1800*	*1800 to 1900*	*Post-1900*
London							
Little Stanmore (Chandos Mausoleum)		X			X		
Manchester							
Friarmere St. Thomas Old Church	X				X		
Heaton Norris Christ Church (Tower)		X				X	
Newcastle							
Bywell St. Andrew	X		X				
Shotley St. Andrew	X				X		
Norwich							
Brandiston St. Nicholas	X		X				
Buckenham St. Nicholas	X		X				
Coston St. Michael	X		X				
East Ruston St. Mary	X		X				
Gunton St. Andrew	X				X		
Hales St. Margaret	X		X				
Moulton St. Mary	X		X				
North Barningham St. Peter	X		X				
Thurgarton All Saints	X		X				
West Harling All Saints	X		X				
Oxford							
Chislehampton St. Katherine	X				X		
East Shefford St. Thomas	X		X				
Edlesborough St. Mary	X		X				
Fleet Marston St. Mary	X		X				
Hartwell The Assumption	X				X		
Lower Basildon St. Bartholomew	X		X				
Newnham Murren St. Mary	X		X				
Nuneham Courtenay All Saints Old Church	X				X		
Pitstone St. Mary	X		X				
Wallingford St. Peter		X			X		
Peterborough							
Aldwincle All Saints	X		X				
Blatherwycke Holy Trinity	X		X				
Deene St. Peter	X		X				
Holdenby All Saints	X		X				
Preston Deanery St. Peter and St. Paul	X		X				
Wakerley St. John the Baptist	X		X				
Portsmouth							
Privett Holy Trinity	X					X	
Ripon							
Allerton Mauleverer St. Martin	X		X				
Cowthorpe St. Michael	X		X				
Harewood All Saints	X		X				
Leeds St. John the Evangelist		*X	X				
Stainburn St. Mary	X		X				
Rochester							
Burham St. Mary Old Church	X		X				
Cooling St. James	X		X				
East Peckham St. Michael	X		X				
Paddlesworth St. Benedict	X		X				
St. Albans							
Bedford St. Mary		X	X				
Buckland St. Andrew	X		X				
Edworth St. George	X		X				
Farndish St. Michael	X		X				
Little Barford St. Denys	X		X				
Lower Gravenhurst St. Mary	X		X				
Oxhey All Saints Old Church		X		X			
Pottesgrove St. Mary	X		X				
Stanstead Abbots St. James	X		X				
St. Edmundsbury and Ispwich							
Akenham St. Mary	X		X				
Bungay St. Mary		X	X				
Chilton St. Mary	X		X				
Covehithe St. Andrew (Tower and ruins)	X		X				

Dioceses	*Rural*	*Urban/city**	*Pre-1500*	*1500 to 1700*	*1700 to 1800*	*1800 to 1900*	*Post-1900*
Ellough All Saints	X		X				
Icklingham All Saints	X		X				
Ipswich St. Mary at the Quay		*X	X				
Little Wenham All Saints	X		X				
Newton Green All Saints (Nave and Tower)	X		X				
Rickinghall Superior St. Mary	X		X				
Sapiston St. Andrew	X		X				
South Elmham All Saints	X		X				
Stanton St. John the Baptist	X		X				
Sudbury St. Peter		X	X				
Salisbury							
Alton Priors All Saints	X		X				
Berwick Bassett St. Nicholas	X		X				
Berwick St. Leonard	X		X				
Bothemhampton Holy Trinity	X		X				
Chute Forest St. Mary	X					X	
Everleigh St. Peter	X					X	
Fisherton Delamere St. Nicholas	X		X				
Idminston All Saints	X		X				
Maddington St. Mary	X		X				
Nether Cerne All Saints	X		X				
Oborne St. Cuthbert	X		X				
Old Dilton St. Mary	X		X				
Portland St. George	X				X		
South Tidworth St. Mary	X					X	
Stockwood St. Edwold	X		X				
Sutton Veny St. Leonard	X		X				
West Dean Borbach Chantry	X		X				
Whitcombe Church	X		X				
Wilton St. Mary (Ruins)		X	X				
Winterborne Tomson St. Andrew	X		X				
Sheffield							
Edlington St. Peter		X	X				
Kirk Sandall St. Oswald		X	X				
Wentworth Holy Trinity Old Church	X		X				
Southwell							
Elston Old Chapel	X		X				
Markham Clinton Milton Mausoleum	X					X	
Winchester							
Ashley St. Mary	X		X				
Colemore St. Peter ad Vincula	X		X				
Eldon St. John the Baptist	X		X				
Freefolk St. Nicholas	X		X				
Hartley Wintney St. Mary	X		X				
Itchenstoke St. Mary	X					X	
Little Somborne All Saints	X		X				
Worcester							
Croome D'Abitot St. Mary Magdalene	X				X		
Evesham St. Lawrence		X	X				
Little Washborne St. Mary	X		X				
Worcester St. Swithun		*X			X		
York							
Birdforth St. Mary	X		X				
Lead St. Mary	X		X				
Whenby St. Martin	X		X				
York Holy Trinity Goodramgate		*X	X				
York St. Lawrence (Tower)		*X	X				
	163	27	157	4	15	14	—

HOME DEPARTMENT

Molesworth

Mr. Dubs asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will call for a report from the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire on his plans to issue identification cards to the residents of Molesworth; and if he will make a statement on the substance of the report

Mr. Giles Shaw: I understand from the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire that vehicle identification discs are being issued to local residents so that the police can distinguish their vehicles. This will help to lessen the disruption and inconvenience to the local community arising from demonstrations at Molesworth, and is similar to arrangements made in the vicinity of certain football grounds on match days.

Mr. Cohen asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will call for a report from the chief constable of Cambridgeshire constabulary on the cost of the recent operation at RAF Molesworth; and if he has received any request from the Cambridgeshire or any other constabulary for financial assistance in connection with security at Molesworth.

Mr. Giles Shaw: I understand that the Cambridgeshire police authority estimates the additional costs of policing RAF Molesworth in the period 5 to 10 February to be some £360,000. Following an approach from Cambridgeshire county council my right hon. and learned Friend has told the police authority that special financial help will be made available, on the same terms as the special payment which we are making for the additional costs of policing the miners' dispute, to meet the additional costs of policing mass demonstrations at RAF Molesworth and Alconbury in the financial year 1985-86.

Mental Health Act 1983

Mr. Evennett asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 during 1984 in: *(a)* the Metropolitan police district, and *(b)* each of the police areas in England and Wales, or if those figures are unavailable centrally, in the rest of England and Wales combined.

Mr. Giles Shaw: The only information collected centrally relates to persons admitted to hospital under section 136. I understand from the Secretary of State for Social Services that the latest information for England is given in "In-patient Statistics from the Mental Health Enquiry—England 1982" published in March 1985; and from the Secretary of State for Wales that the latest corresponding information for Wales is given in "Mental Health Statistics for Wales 1983" published in October 1984.

South Africa

Mr. Caborn asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if the Government will compile a list of South African nationals and others involved in activities in breach of the United Nations mandatory arms embargo and deny such persons entry to the United Kingdom;

(2) if any arrangements exist to ensure that foreign nationals involved in activities in breach of the United Nations mandatory arms embargo against South Africa are denied entry to the United Kingdom.

Mr. Waddington: If a person subject to immigration control who was known to have engaged in such activities, sought admission to the United Kingdom, careful consideration would be given to whether his exclusion was conducive to the public good, but the information is not available to enable a definitive list to be compiled.

Firearms

Mr. Conway asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is, for the latest convenient 12 months period, the number of prosecutions brought for misuse of a weapon licensed under the Firearms Act 1968; and what is the number of convictions secured.

Mr. Mellor: Information collected centrally on court proceedings does not identify those offences involving misuse of a weapon licensed under the Firearms Act 1968. The available information relates to proceedings for offences under the Firearms Act 1968 and the aggregate figures are published annually in "Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, Supplementary Tables"—for 1983 in Tables S1.1(A), Vol. 1—magistrates' courts and S1.1(A), Vol. 2—the Crown Court, under offence classifications 81 and 115.

Mr. Iain Mills asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he has received any representations concerning the introduction of a self-financing log book system for the registration and control of all firearms.

Mr. Giles Shaw: I am not aware of any such representations being submitted, and my right hon. and learned Friend has no plans at present to introduce such a system.

Public Disorder (Wolverhampton)

Mr. Proctor asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his reply to the hon. Member for Billericay on 7 March, about incidents of public disorder in Dudley street, Wolverhampton, on 20 February, if he will call for a report from the chief constable of the West Midlands as to the ethnic breakdown of the persons involved; and if he will make a statement on the substance of the report.

Mr. Giles Shaw: I understand from the Chief Constable of West Midlands that most of the crowd involved in this incident were black. Of the 22 arrested 13 were black, 8 were white and 1 was Asian.

Departmental Managers (Accounting)

Mr. Wainwright asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what accounting developments are being made in his Department to give line managers better information about the cost and condition of the capital assets they are managing.

Mr. Brittan: Better information for line managers about the cost and use of capital assets is being provided in the prison department through the new costing system (though there are difficulties arising from the age and nature of the prison estate); and is one of the objectives which is being pursued in the development of a new financial management information system for the Directorate of Telecommunications. Most of the department's non-prisons land and buildings is managed on a cost-centre basis under property repayment services; these arrangements, introduced on 1 April 1983, are designed to achieve greater awareness of the cost of departmental accommodation and associated services.

Immigration (Husbands)

Mr. Madden asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many husbands have been refused entry clearance on medical grounds in each year from 1979 to 1984.

Mr. Waddington: Regular information on reasons for refusal of entry clearance has been collected centrally only for the Indian subcontinent from 1983. Apart from the case which the hon. Member has drawn to my attention, I am not aware of any husband refused entry clearance on medical grounds.

Local Government Elections

Mr. Sackville asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from religious organisations about polling day for the local elections coinciding with Ascension day.

Mr. Mellor: None.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Research Staff

Mr. Greenway asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what information he has as to the number of staff engaged in research full-time in institutions of higher education, excluding medical schools, who hold *(a)* tenured posts and *(b)* untenured posts; and in the case of those who hold untenured posts, how many are excluded by their conditions of employment from their right to redundancy pay, or to challenge unfair dismissal.

Mr. Brooke: The information available relates to all full-time university staff in the United Kingdom engaged in research only. In the academic year 1983-84, there were 10,720 such staff, of whom 982 were wholly university financed. Information is not collected centrally about numbers of tenured and non-tenured posts, nor about the terms of employment of research staff. These matters are for universities themselves, where they are the employers. Comparable information about higher education institutions outside the universities is not available.

Mr. Greenway asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what information he has as to the number of non-medically qualified staff employed full-time in medical research in the different medical schools throughout the United Kingdom; and what information he has as to *(a)* how many permanent posts are available in the medical schools for such researchers, *(b)* how many such res[illegible] are employed on a short-term contract basis, [illegible]w many medical schools in the United King[illegible]nclude in the conditions of employment in all short-[illegible] contracts for such researchers the obligatory waiving of statutory rights to redundancy, unfair dismissal, and so on.

Mr. Brooke: In the academic year 1983-84, 4,898 full-time non-medically qualified academic staff were employed in United Kingdom medical schools, of which 2,153 were wholly university financed. Information is not available centrally to identify those involved in medical research only, nor the number of permanent posts available for them. The granting of short-term contracts and conditions of service are matters for universities themselves where they are the employers.

Mr. Greenway asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science (1) what information he has as to the number of staff engaged in *(a)* scientific and *(b)* medical research in institutions of higher education, including medical schools, who are supported by research councils; and of these how many are on short-term contracts (i) of five years and (ii) of three years or less;

(2) what information he has as to the number of contract research staff supported on short-term grants by research councils or charitable funding in institutions of higher education, including medical schools, who are engaged in *(a)* scientific and *(b)* medical research and who are under 30 years old, between 30 and 35 and over 35; what proportion of each of these categories are women; and how these figures compare with *(a)* 10 years ago and *(b)* five years ago.

Mr. Brooke: The research councils award research grants to higher education institutions rather than directly engaging staff required for those grants themselves. I understand from the councils that the numbers of contract research staff currently supported by them on short term grants in higher education institutions are as follows:

	Numbers
AFRC	300
MRC	3,044
NERC	604
SERC	4,557

The above figures include scientific and supporting staff.

There are no central records of the age, sex or length of contract of such staff. Comparative figures for 10 and five years ago are not available; nor is any information about the number of contract staff supported by charitable funding.

PhD Studentships

Mr. Greenway asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what information he has as to the number of applications from graduates for PhD studentships and post-doctoral fellowships at institutes of higher education curently pending and in respect of such applicants the number who obtained their first degree *(a)* in the United Kingdom and *(b)* overseas; and how these figures compare with those of 10 years ago.

Mr. Brooke: This information is not available centrally.

Human Embryo Research

Mr. Dobson asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how much money has been spent by the Medical Research Council on human embryo research in each year since 1974-75.

Mr. Brooke: I understand that in the last four financial years the Medical Research Council estimates that it has spent the following sums on human embryo research:

	£'000
1980-81	840
1981-82	892
1982-83	971
1983-84	990

No figures are available for MRC expenditure on research in this area prior to 1980-81.

EMPLOYMENT

Health and Safety Commission

Mr. Murphy asked the Secretary of State for Employment what consultation procedure is envisaged regarding the future development of the Health and Safety Commission; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: The constitution of the Health and Safety Commission is set out in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. These arrangements have in general worked well and there are no plans at present to change them.

Adult Training Strategy

Mr. Spearing asked the Secretary of State for Employment if, pursuant to his statements concerning new training opportunities on 11 March, *Official Report*, column *49*, he will tabulate the numbers and categories of skill places in his reorganisation plans discontinued and those initiated.

Mr. Peter Morrison: The majority of Manpower Services Commission skills training provision is planned and delivered locally in the light of local needs and figures on the precise categories of skill training supported are not available. We are planning to increase substantially the number of people who will benefit from help under these programmes. The table sets out the broad categories under which support will be provided.

Locally delivered adult training

	Estimated numbers of people starting training	
Type of training	*in 1984-85*	*in 1985-86*
Occupational training for individuals	57,500	54,000
Work preparation	22,000	42,000
Training for enterprise (ie small business training)	6,500	16,000
Access to information	4,500	38,000
Technology	—	—
Local grants to employers:		
(1) Local grant aid	n/a	12,000
(2) Recruitment and training packages	n/a	8,000

n/a=Figures not available.

Wages Councils

Dr. McDonald asked the Secretary of State for Employment if he will publish in the *Official Report (a)* the highest and lowest current wage levels set by the wages councils for workers aged 16, 17 and 18 years; and if he will indicate the industries concerned and *(b)* the highest and lowest current wage levels set by the wages councils for adult workers, and the industry in which they work.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: The information requested is as follows. The rates quoted are full time rates for time workers.

	Highest rate £ per week	*Lowest rate £ per week*
16-year-old rate*	†59·20	¶29·71
17-year-old rate*	†66·60	¶34·11
Rate payable to 18-year-olds	‡82·65	●37·50
Adult rate	‖97·20	■47·50

* Age pointed rates.

† Laundry.

‡ Rope, twine and net—grade 1 night shift worker aged 18 and over.

‖ Licensed non-residential—club steward in larger London clubs.

¶ Toy manufacturing—new entrant rate for first two months.

● Hairdressing—'all other workers', including shampooists, aged under 20 years.

■ Hairdressing—'all other workers', including shampooists, aged 20 years and over.

Footwear Industry

Mr. Freeman asked the Secretary of State for Employment what are the latest statistics available to his Department on employment in the footwear manufacturing industry as compared with 12 months previously.

Mr. Alan Clark: In December 1984 it is estimated that there were 48,900 employees in employment in the footwear manufacturing industry (class 451 of the 1980 standard industrial classification). The corresponding figure for December 1983 was 50,300.

Service Industries

Mr. Wareing asked the Secretary of State for Employment how many jobs have *(a)* been lost and *(b)* been created in service industries since March 1984.

Mr. Alan Clark: Information about job gains and job losses is not available from the Department's statistics but an indication of net changes can be seen by comparing levels of employees in employment at different dates.

Between March and September, the latest date for which figures are available, the estimated number of employees in employment in Great Britain in service industries increased by 75,000.

Unemployment Statistics

Mr. Wareing asked the Secretary of State for Employment what was the number of people unemployed in March 1984 and in March 1985; and what percentage of the population of working age jobless this represents for these two dates.

Mr. Alan Clark: On 8 March 1984 there was a total of 3,142,775 unemployed claimants in the United Kingdom, representing an unemployment rate of 13·0 per cent. of all employees and the unemployed. This information is also available from the Library. The figures for March 1985 are not yet available but will be published on 4 April.

While some people of working age who are without jobs and seeking work are excluded from the unemployment count because they are not entitled to benefits, others are included in the count who are not actively seeking work. Household surveys such as the 1983 labour force survey indicate that the two groups broadly offset each other. Details of the position in 1984 will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Employment Gazette*.

Pay

Mr. Wareing asked the Secretary of State for Employment what the average level of pay rises was in the financial year 1983-84; and what they have been so far during 1984-85.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: Details on the percentage increase in average gross weekly earnings of employees in Great Britain in the 12 months ending March 1984 are contained in table 5.1 of *Employment Gazette*, February 1985, a copy of which is in the Library. The latest information, relating to the 12 months ending December 1984, is given in the same table.

Manufacturing Industry (Job Losses)

Mr. Wareing asked the Secretary of State for Employment if he will estimate the number of jobs lost in manufacturing industry since March 1984.

Mr. Alan Clark: Information about job gains and job losses is not available from the Department's statistics but an indication of net changes can be seen by comparing levels of employees in employment at different dates.

Between March and December, in Great Britain, the estimated number of employees in employment in manufacturing industries decreased by 17,000.

Unemployment Statistics (Scotland)

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Employment why local unemployment figures for Scotland are not to be published in March.

Mr. Alan Clark: The publication of February's unemployment figures for all local areas in Great Britain, below regional level, was delayed until 15 March. This was because of an error identified, on the day before the intended release date of 7 March, in new computer programmes. These are designed to provide a wider range of local unemployment figures. The existing programmes have been reinstated until the fault has been corrected.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Spandau Prison, West Berlin

Mr. Johnston asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the military authorities in West Berlin are prepared to take to assure citizens who live in its vicinity that military activities in the grounds of Spandau prison do not constitute a danger.

Mr. Renton: The British Military Government Berlin is prepared to take all action necessary for the safety of citizens living in the British Sector of Berlin. Spandau prison is guarded, in monthly rotation, by soldiers of the four powers. I am not aware that this has posed problems to people living nearby.

Disarmament Conference (Ministerial Visit)

Mr. Latham asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will make a statement on the visit to the conference on disarmament in Geneva by the Minister of State, the hon. Member for Shoreham, (Mr. Luce) on 12 March.

Mr. Luce: During my visit to Geneva, I had talks with the heads of a number of delegations to the conference on disarmament, including the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union. I also delivered a speech to the conference in which I called for an urgent and concerted effort now to conclude a total ban on chemical weapons. I drew attention to the issues of verification yet to be resolved.

To add impetus to this work, I presented a new British working paper containing proposals for the routine inspection of civil chemical plants to ensure that under such a ban certain toxic chemicals are not diverted for secret military use. This paper, which builds upon earlier British proposals tabled in 1983 and 1984, was well received. I emphasised that the United Kingdom would continue to play a full part in efforts to advance progress in the negotiations.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND

Coal Industry Dispute (Convictions)

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Solicitor-General for Scotland how many convictions there have been under the Mines and Quarries Acts in Scotland, as a result of the offences during the miners' strike.

The Solicitor-General for Scotland: None.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Solicitor-General for Scotland what proportion of convictions in Scotland arising from the miners' strike are for *(a)* crimes and *(b)* offences.

The Solicitor-General for Scotland: Incidents reported to procurators fiscal which result in criminal proceedings are not categorised in this fashion.

Coal Industry Dispute (Prosecutions)

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Solicitor-General for Scotland how many offences and crimes for which arrests have been made in Scotland as a result of incidents connected with the miners' strike have been or are to go before jury trials.

The Solicitor-General for Scotland: Two cases resulting from incidents connected with the miners' strike have been brought to trial before a sheriff and a jury.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Solicitor-General for Scotland how many persons convicted of offences or crimes during the miners' industrial dispute are *(a)* not resident in Scotland and *(b)* not miners.

The Solicitor-General for Scotland: Such information as exists might not be complete and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Solicitor-General for Scotland what proportion of convictions in Scotland as a result of offences during the miners' dispute are for *(a)* breach of the peace offences, *(b)* obstruction or other offences under the Police (Scotland) Act 1967 and *(c)* offences under the Bail (Scotland) Act 1980.

The Solicitor-General for Scotland: The information requested is not readily available and I will publish the information in the *Official Report* later.

PRIME MINISTER

Government (Achievements)

Mr. Irving asked the Prime Minister if she will list in the *Official Report* the main achievements of Her Majesty's Government since June 1983.

The Prime Minister: Since the 1983 election, the inflation rate has remained low at around 5 per cent.; Gross domestic product has continued to grow; total investment has reached a new all-time high; profits have recovered substantially; retail sales and the standard of living have also hit new peaks. Between June 1983 and September 1984, the estimated number of people in work rose by 453,000.

A major reform of taxation was commenced, with a plan to cut the corporation tax rate to 35 per cent. by 1986-87. The small firms rate has been reduced from 38 per cent. to 30 per cent. Personal tax thresholds for income tax have been raised in real terms, stamp duty has been halved; the national insurance surcharge and the investment income surcharge abolished.

The forces of competition in the economy are being strengthened. Legislation to end the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly and a Bill to introduce competition into the bus industry are before Parliament. A White Paper on airline competition has been published and practical steps, through bilateral agreements, are being taken towards liberalising aviation in Europe. The opticians' monopoly to supply spectacles has been abolished. The financial services White Paper which proposes a new framework for investor protection is also aimed at improving the competitiveness of the financial services industry.

The large programme of privatisation has continued. The successful privatisation of British Telecom in November 1984 was the largest ever flotation and led to a massive increase in the number of people holding shares. Wytch Farm, Enterprise Oil, Sealink, Jaguar, INMOS, Scott Lithgow, and several other smaller public enterprises have also been transferred to the private sector. There has been substantial progress in this direction in respect of British Airways, the royal ordnance factories, the National Bus Company, the warship-building yards of British Shipbuilders, and the remaining Government holding in British Aerospace. The Government have also announced their decision to abolish the British National Oil Corporation.

The Government have launched a more cost-effective and job-related regional industrial policy; has backed the Alvey programme for research into advanced information technology; and has allocated substantial funds for the promotion of new technology.

In transport, London Transport has been transferred from the GLC to London Regional Transport, and targets set for better value for money. Similarly, British Rail, under its new chairman, has been given targets for the reduction of subsidy and the improvement of customer service.

New initiatives have been announced to control drug misuse, and the Government supported the Video Recordings Act to control video nasties. Legislation has been put through for data protection; to provide a framework for the development of cable television; to set out a new framework for police powers and for handling complaints against the police, in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act; and to enhance both the powers available to deal with terrorism and the safeguards for the citizen under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Measures have been taken to ensure that the terms of imprisonment served by violent offenders fully reflect society's abhorrence of their crimes.

In education the Government have launched a major initiative to raise standards in schools including the publication of broad curricula objectives for the 5 to 16 age group, the reform of the 16-plus examination system, and the decision to introduce records of achievement for school leavers of all abilities. The technical and vocational education initiative had been introduced to boost practical elements in the 14 to 18 curriculum. The council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education has been established to evaluate teacher training courses and a discussion paper on school teacher numbers and deployment in the longer term has been published. In higher education, record numbers of students were admitted in the academic year 1984, and the Government endorsed plans which provide for a continuation of the significant shift towards science and engineering and other subjects in the public sector of higher education.

In the social security field, the Government have maintained the protection of social security benefits against inflation. The retirement pension is at a record real level. Legislation has been introduced to improve the position of early-leavers from pension schemes, and proposals have been set out to encourage personal portable pensions. The Government have launched the most far-reaching review of social security provisions since Beveridge.

In the Health Service, we have continued to develop services for patients and waiting lists have fallen. NHS spending has been maintained at record levels, and the drive for better management continues with the appointment of General Managers throughout the Health Service.

The youth training scheme has given new training opportunities to some 700,000 young people since it was launched in 1983. The number of adults benefiting from training programmes is being doubled. The enterprise allowance scheme has been expanded.

The Trades Union Act was passed extending the rights of members of trades unions to influence the affairs of their unions.

In energy, Government policies on taxation and licensing have made 1984 a record year for oil and gas exploration and development in the North sea, and the North sea contribution to United Kingdom employment has been further expanded. New reserves of gas have made it possible to scale down the need for imports for the years ahead. With Government support the electricity and coal industries have enabled the electricity system to withstand a year-long coal strike without power cuts and with only limited damage to the rest of British industry.

In local government, the Rates Act is protecting ratepayers from huge increases in rates in the highest spending councils. The Bill to abolish the GLC and the metropolitan county council is making good progress. The right to buy their homes has been extended to more council tenants, discount terms have been improved for many, and assistance has been provided to the owners of defective houses previously in the public sector. We are consulting on proposals to increase competitive tendering by councils.

In the environment, research into acid rain is increasing and steps have been taken to end the pollution of our rivers, estuaries and beaches. The successful international garden festival was mounted in Liverpool, and other disused land in the inner cities brought into use. Fourteen new enterprise zones have been designated.

In defence, the capability of our armed forces has continued to be strengthened by further increases in the defence budget. The Government have played their full part in implementing NATO's 1979 decision to modernise intermediate range nuclear weapons. Increased efficiency is being pursued by the continuing transfer of resources from the support areas to the frontline, and by introducing increased competition in defence contracts and promoting collaboration with our international partners. Finally a major re-organisation of the headquarters structure of the Ministry of Defence has been introduced.

In foreign policy, the Government have maintained Britain's strong commitment to the NATO alliance. British Ministers and representatives have been active in building up an east-west dialogue, with high level visits in both directions, and in promoting the arms control process. Within the European Community the Government achieved a refund for 1983 of £430 million; a lasting settlement on budgetary imbalances, under which our net contribution will be reduced by about half; measures to control Community spending, especially on agriculture; and the successful conclusion of the third Lome convention. An agreement was signed with China last December about the future of Hong Kong. Over Gibraltar an agreement was reached with Spain in February, and the border is now open.

Mr. Peter Levene

Mr. Evennett asked the Prime Minister if she will make a further statement on the basis on which Mr. Peter Levene is being appointed to be Chief of Defence Procurement in the Ministry of Defence.

The Prime Minister: On 19 December last my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced the appointment, with my approval, of Mr. Peter Levene to be Chief of Defence Procurement in the Ministry of Defence.

At the time it was believed both by the Government and by the Civil Service Commissioners that Mr. Levene's appointment as Chief of Defence Procurement would be by way of secondment from an outside organisation and would thus fall outside the ambit of the Civil Service Order in Council 1982 and that the Civil Service Commissioners did not need to be asked to consider the issue of a certificate of qualification for Mr. Levene. This belief was based on practice and conventions of long standing.

Legal advice has recently been received to the effect that appointments by secondment do not fall outside the ambit of the Order in Council, and that the requirements of the Order in Council must be satisfied in relation to secondments as in relation to other appointments.

Measures are being taken to provide that future appointments to the Home Civil Service and to the Diplomatic Service which take the form of secondment from an outside organisation are made in compliance with the Civil Service Order in Council and any regulations made thereunder.

In relation to the case of Mr. Levene, who is regarded by the Ministry of Defence (as the Civil Service Commissioners have been told) as exceptionally well-qualified by ability and experience to carry out the functions of the Chief of Defence Procurement, the position is that his appointment was made and announced three months ago in the belief by all concerned that it fell outside the ambit of the Order in Council. The recent legal advice is that the belief was mistaken. In the meantime, on the basis of the public faith so pledged, both the Ministry of Defence and Mr. Levene have entered into arrangements to enable the appointment to be put into effect, which it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to undo.

In these wholly exceptional circumstances the Civil Service Commissioners have reviewed the matter, and are satisfied that it is desirable that Mr. Levene's appointment should proceed without the issue of a certificate of qualification, under the provisions of article 1(2)(g) of the Order in Council.

Mr. Levene will now be appointed under a fixed term contract not exceeding five years, and not by secondment from an outside organisation.

Teachers

Mr. Ralph Howell asked the Prime Minister if she will compare the pupil to teacher ratio in the United Kingdom in 1979 and 1984 with the pupil to other persons or non-teachers employed ratio in the United Kingdom in 1979 and 1984 in actual and full-time equivalent terms.

The Prime Minister: The available information is shown in the following table for the United Kingdom.

	1978-79	*1983-84*
Pupils per teacher*		
Maintained primary	22·9	22·0
Maintained secondary	16·5	16·0
Pupils and further education		
Students per non-teaching support staff*†	22·8	23·3

* Ratios have been calculated from full-time plus full-time equivalent of part-time numbers, for pupils, students and staff.

† The breakdown of non-teaching support staff employed by local education authorities between the school and further education sectors is not available.

Drugs (Patents)

Mr. Kennedy asked the Prime Minister if she will make a statement on the relative roles and nature of the co-operation between the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Health and Social Security on the question of possible extensions to patent life for the research and development of drugs.

The Prime Minister: The Department of Trade and Industry is responsible for patent law. Before formulating policy it seeks the views of its Standing Advisory Committee on which both users and industry are represented as well as other Government Departments concerned. The Department of Trade and Industry is awaiting a paper on a possible extension of patent life from the pharmaceutical industry. The Standing Advisory Committee and the Department of Health and Social Security (both as sponsoring Department and that responsible for the National Health Service) will then be asked for their views.

Personal Allowances

Mr. Ralph Howell asked the Prime Minister what the loss of revenue would be if income tax and national insurance thresholds were raised to £60 per week for a single person and £120 per week for a married couple; what would be the savings in revenue if all benefits, including child benefit, were discontinued for any single person whose income from any source was £50 or a married couple whose income was £100; and what would be the loss or gain to the Revenue if these measures were enacted simultaneously.

The Prime Minister: I regret that this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Teachers' Dispute

Mr. Lewis Stevens asked the Prime Minister, following her answer to the hon. Member for Romsey and Waterside (Mr. Colvin) on 14 March, *Official Report*, column 434, about the teachers' dispute, if she will make a further statement.

The Prime Minister: I am pleased to confirm that members of the National Union of Teachers at Exhall Grange school were not on strike last week. I am delighted that, unlike teachers at some other special schools where industrial action is taking place, they are continuing to carry out their difficult and demanding duties.

I very much regret any embarrassment or offence to the teachers of this school which may have followed from my statement last Thursday. The misunderstanding arose because publicity material from the National Union of Teachers was in error. It was Exhall school which was affected; Exhall Grange school was not.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Students (Supplementary Benefit)

Mr. Beggs asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has any plans to cease payment of supplementary benefit during holiday periods to students in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Chris Patten: No. I cannot however predict whether any changes may be proposed as a result of the current review of social security.

Kinsale Gas

Mr. Beggs asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if any revised proposal to bring Kinsale gas to Newry and Belfast has been submitted to him; and if he will make a statement.

Dr. Boyson: I have not received any such proposal. However, I understand that a revised Kinsale gas scheme is being considered by a number of the industry's undertakings.

Tourism

Mr. Clifford Forsythe asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures the Government are preparing to help the tourist industry in Northern Ireland, following the publication of their discussion paper on tourism prepared by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Department of Economic Development.

Dr. Boyson [*pursuant to his reply,* 12 March 1985, c. *125*.]: The Department of Economic Development is reviewing existing measures of financial assistance to the tourist industry and the main purpose in publishing the discussion paper is to stimulate an informed response from those involved in tourism, which it is hoped will be helpful to Government in establishing future tourist policy guidelines.

TRANSPORT

Merchant Marine

4. **Sir David Price** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to halt the continuing decline in the size of the British merchant marine.

Mr. Ridley: I am pursuing vigorously the recent progress by officials from the USA and the states in the Consultative Shipping Group on co-ordinated action against protectionism in shipping. I am pressing for swift action on the shipping measures proposed earlier this month to the Council of Ministers by the European Commission. I am in close touch with the General Council of British Shipping on all points it has raised for Government action.

Road Improvements (West London)

8. **Mr. Greenway** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what money was spent on road improvements in west London in *(a)* 1981, *(b)* 1982, *(c)* 1983, *(d)* 1984 and *(e)* 1985 in real terms; what is projected for 1986 and 1987; and if he will make a statement.

Mrs. Chalker: Such figures as I have are as follows. Over the whole period, cash expenditure on roads that are the Secretary of State's responsibility will total over £33 million, reflecting our continuing commitment to improve the A40 and the North Circular Road.

Financial Year	*£ million*
1981-82	6·0
1982-83	11·4
1983-84	8·8
1984-85	3·4

Estimates for the next 3 financial years are:

	£ million
1985-86	1.4
1986-87	1·0
1987-88	1·5

Bus Industry

10. **Mr. Ron Davies** asked the Secretary of State for Transport whether his view of the bus industry has changed following the publication of the Transport Committee report on financing public transport.

Mr. Ridley: The Select Committee report acknowledged the serious state of the bus industry and suggested as an alternative policy competitive tendering for all services. This is a much more restrictive system even than the present one; and will not secure the gains in productivity, and—more important—the concentration on the needs of the passenger, which deregulation will provide.

We will reply to the report as soon as possible.

Bus Services (Rural Areas)

15. **Mr. Alan Howarth** asked the Secretary of State for Transport how the level of bus services in the rural trial area of Hereford and Worcester has compared with bus services in rural areas elsewhere since the trial was established.

Mr. Ridley: Bus vehicle kilometres on country routes in the trial area are estimated to have risen 2 per cent. since the trial was established. During the same period vehicle kilometres in the whole of the county of Hereford and Worcester declined by 12 per cent. and in rural Cumbria by 9 per cent. (Comprehensive figures for rural services for the country as a whole are not available.)]

Air Fares

16. **Mr. McCrindle** asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on his further plans to discuss European air fares with his counterparts in European Economic Community countries and other European countries.

Mr. Ridley: I am planning a major effort, in the EC and bilaterally, to build on our successes with the Dutch and West Germans last year. We are meeting Italy, Switzerland, France and Luxembourg to start with.

Bus Services (Cumbria)

17. **Mr. Campbell-Savours** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from Cumbria county council on the deregulation of bus services.

Mr. David Mitchell: I have received a written response from Cumbria county council to the White Paper on Buses, and they also commented on six of the seven consultation documents which my Department subsequently issued.

M25 (Denham-Poyle)

18. **Mr. Tim Smith** asked the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects that the section of the M25 between Denham and Poyle will be open to traffic.

Mrs. Chalker: In September, when the section of the motorway itself from Poyle to the M4 is due to be completed. However, the connecting roads between the M25 and M4 are not due for completion until June 1986.

South Yorkshire

19. **Mr. Hardy** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from inhabitants of the county of south Yorkshire about the maintenance of public transport for rural or semi-rural commuters.

Mr. David Mitchell: I have received a number of representations from inhabitants of south Yorkshire; some of which have dealt with travel in rural areas.

C5 Pedal Cycle

20. **Mr. Peter Bruinvels** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what information he has as to the number of accidents in which the C5 electrically assisted pedal cycle has been involved to date.

Mrs. Chalker: To date one accident only involving a C5 cycle has been reported to my Department.

Wheel Clamp

21. **Mr. Roger King** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received about extending the use of the wheel clamp to further areas.

Mrs. Chalker: I have received no formal requests, though some interest has been expressed.

Large Oil Tankers (Routes)

22. **Mr. Kennedy** asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will report on progress towards specifying designated routes for large crude oil carrying tankers west of the Hebrides and clear of the Minch; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. David Mitchell: I understand that when new editions of the principal charts of the area are published later this year, the Hydrographer of the Navy intends to have marked on them the exact limits of the area now surveyed to modern standards and to include a note stating that deep draught vessels should keep within that area if possible.

London Regional Transport (Unit Costs)

23. **Mr. Cartwright** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made, in consultation with the chairman of London Regional Transport, in reviewing the target for reductions in unit costs which London Regional Transport was set on 20 July 1984.

Mrs. Chalker: My Department maintains a close interest in LRT's measures to reduce costs and improve productivity. I shall be reviewing progress with the chairman shortly, when considering LRT's plans for next year and succeeding years. So far, LRT have made good progress in reducing unit costs, as their annual business plan shows.

Channel Link

24. **Mr. Teddy Taylor** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to the report of the Anglo-French working party on the Channel link.

Mr. David Mitchell: The report of the working party consists of draft guidelines for prospective promoters of a fixed link. I expect to meet my French counterpart on 20 March to agree a final text and arrange for the guidelines to be made available as speedily as possible.

Road Repairs (Severe Weather)

25. **Mr. Madel** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what estimates he has received from his Department and local authorities as to the additional cost of repairs to roads damaged by the recent severe winter weather; and if he will make a statement.

Mrs. Chalker: None. It is probably too early for realistic estimates to be prepared.

MOT Testing Stations (Safety)

26. **Mr. John Mark Taylor** asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the safety record of the Ministry of Transport testing and garage industry.

Mrs. Chalker: Safety in MOT testing stations is the responsibility of the operators under the surveillance of the Health and Safety Executive or the local authority. It is of course influenced by the procedures and equipment prescribed by the Department which aim to follow good modern practice.

British Rail (Electrification)

27. **Mr. Sackville** asked the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce a decision on British Rail's application for approval of investment in *(a)* the construction of the Windsor link, Manchester and *(b)* the electrification of the Preston-Manchester line.

Mr. David Mitchell: An investment proposal for the Windsor link was submitted by British Rail last week. British Rail has not sought approval to electrify the Preston to Manchester line.

Buses

28. **Mr. Boyes** asked the Secretary of State for Transport whether he is satisfied with his policy towards bus services in the light of the Transport Committee report on financing transport services.

Mr. David Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend gave to the hon. Member for Caerphilly (Mr. Davies) and my hon. Friend the Member for Keighley (Mr. Waller) earlier today.

Concessionary Fares

29. **Mr. Rogers** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what effect he expects the planned £48 million reduction in concessionary fares subsidies to have on concessionary fares.

Mrs. Chalker: Subsidies for concessionary fares are the responsibility of local authorities, which are free to determine their priorities within the resources available. In 1984-85, they chose to budget for concessionary fares expenditure in England totalling some £56 million more than the public expenditure provision. The 1985-86 provision has been maintained in real terms at the same level as in previous years.

London Regional Transport (Three-year Strategy)

30. **Mr. Cohen** asked the Secretary of State for Transport when London Regional Transport is going to publish, for consultation with local authorities, its three-year strategy.

Mrs. Chalker: That is a matter for London Regional Transport management, but I understand that London Regional Transport intend to publish a consultation document very shortly, with a view to publishing a final three year strategy statement before the end of June.

Post Bus Services

31. **Mr. Tom Cox** asked the Secretary of State for Transport when he last discussed with the Post Office the future of post bus services; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. David Mitchell: My hon. Friend the Minister of State met the chairman of the Post Office in June last year. Our proposals in the Transport Bill should provide continued support to the introduction and maintenance of post bus services.

Motorway Repairs (Lane Rental)

32. **Mr. Sayeed** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what have been the results of his experiments in lane rental for motorway repairs.

Mrs. Chalker: Of the four schemes introduced in 1984-85, three have finished ahead of the projected completion date. The fourth is still in progress but running late. Further experiments are planned for 1985-86.

Coastal Shipping

33. **Mr. Stott** asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to take powers to reserve coastal shipping to British ships.

Mr. David Mitchell: No. The policy of this Government is to press for the opening up of foreign cabotage trades to British vessels. In pursuit of this goal, we shall be supporting proposals for the liberalisation of shipping markets within the EEC which have recently been made by the Commission of the European Communities.

Departmental Manpower

34. **Mr. Parry** asked the Secretary of State for Transport what were the numbers of technical and administrative staff, employed full-time by his Department on metropolitan county issues at headquarters and at regional offices in June 1983 and at the present time; and what is the comparable number planned for April 1986.

Mrs. Chalker: Some 140 staff (full-time equivalents) were employed on metropolitan county business in June 1983, and a similar number are currently so employed. Staffing levels at April 1986 will depend on prevailing workloads but will be contained within overall manpower targets.

Merchant Shipbuilding

Mr. Trotter asked the Secretary of State for Transport how many trading ships over 500 gross registered tons were ordered in 1984 for United Kingdom ownership and registration *(a)* in United Kingdom yards and *(b)* in foreign yards; what in each case was the total deadweight; and if he will estimate what number and deadweight of orders would have been necessary to keep the fleet at its present size.

Mr. Ridley: The number and total deadweight tonnage of trading ships over 500 gross registered tonnes ordered for United Kingdom registration in 1984 were:

	Number of Vessels	*Thousand deadweight tons (estimated)*
United Kingdom yards	8	85
Foreign yards	4	19

We do not have the information requested on ownership because the owner of a vessel is not known until registration takes place. It is not possible to give a reliable estimate of the orders which would be required for a particular size of fleet because the size of a fleet is determined by the purchases of second-hand vessels and other changes in registration, as well as deliveries of new tonnage.

Heavy Vehicles (Side Guards)

Mr. Heddle asked the Secretary of State for Transport what steps have been taken by his Department to persuade operators of heavy commercial vehicles to fit side guards;

what steps have been taken to ensure that the law in this respect is being complied with; and if he will make a statement.

Mrs. Chalker: Side guards have been required since October 1983 to be fitted on all new lorries exceeding 3,500 kilograms gross weight, and on all new trailers exceeding 1,020 kilograms unladen weight. They are also required to be fitted on any semi-trailer regardless of date of manufacture, whose gross weight exceeds 26,000 kilograms if it is attached to a tractor whose plated gross train weight exceeds 32,520 kilograms. There are already many heavy lorries on the roads with side guards fitted and the numbers are growing year by year as new vehicles replace older ones taken out of service.

Enforcement of vehicle construction and use requirements generally is a police responsibility, but it is also carried out by the Department's vehicle examiners, especially at the Heavy Goods Vehicle Testing Stations when vehicles are brought in for their annual test. We have no evidence of non-compliance on any significant scale.

Disabled People (Transport)

Mr. Bidwell asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will request the London Regional Transport board to prepare a co-ordinated policy regarding the provision of transport for disabled people.

Mrs. Chalker: London Regional Transport is developing its policies towards transport provision for disabled people. I understand that it hopes to be in a position to issue a public statement of its policies in the next few months.

Okehampton Bypass

Mr. Clifford Forsythe asked the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria govern the payment of legal and other costs from public funds of inquiries into road schemes proposed by his Department; and what will be the contribution by his Department into costs associated with the proposed Okehampton bypass.

Mrs. Chalker: Costs incurred by the Department in holding public inquiries into road schemes are borne by the Department as a result of the Secretary of State's functions under the Highways Act 1980 and the Local Government Act 1972.

The criteria for the payment of objectors' costs where appropriate are set out in MHLF circular 73/65, a copy of which is in the Library.

The Department's contribution into costs associated with the proposed Okehampton bypass cannot be assessed until the present proceedings have been concluded.

Grant Applications

Mr. Thurnham asked the Secretary of State for Transport how many projects are awaiting a decision about a grant application under section 65 of the Transport Act 1968 *(a)* in the United Kingdom and *(b)* in the north west.

Mrs. Chalker: I have agreed to pay grant under section 56 of the Transport Act 1968 on 1[illegible] existing public transport projects which were previously supported through TSG.

Several new schemes, including the refurbishment of Moore lane bus station in Bolton which my hon. Friend referred to in his question of 18 February, have been suggested as possible candidates for grant.

A draft circular outlining the criteria which will apply to such projects, has been sent to the local authority associations for their views. Once the circular has been issued local authorities will be able to submit grant applications for projects which meet the criteria.

Snow Hill Tunnel

Mr. Dobson asked the Secretary of State for Transport when he will make a decision on British Rail's proposal to re-open the Snow Hill tunnel.

Mr. David Mitchell: Shortly.

Subsidised Bus Services (Tendering)

Mr. Pike asked the Secretary of State for Transport when he proposes to publish his code of practice for tendering for subsidised bus services.

Mr. David Mitchell: We intend to publish the code of practice once the Transport Bill has received Royal Assent.

Mr. Pike asked the Secretary of State for Transport which bodies he is consulting with regard to his proposed code of practice for tendering for subsidised bus services.

Mr. David Mitchell: I shall over the coming months be consulting local authority associations, representatives of bus operators, relevant professional organisations and representatives of consumers and other interested groups.

Road Construction

Mr. Alan Howarth asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he has yet responded to the Civil Engineering Economic Development Committee's report, "A Fairer and Faster Route to Major Road Construction."

Mr. Ridley: I made an interim response to the report when I met the civil engineering EDC this morning. I am anxious to make faster progress with road building but the interests of people affected must be safeguarded and we must ensure that we get value for money. I am actively exploring possible improvements. I hope to announce final collusions by the autumn.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Misuse of Drugs

Mr. Murphy asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will make a statement on Her Majesty's Government's new publicity campaign in relation to the misuse of drugs; what arrangements are being made to monitor the effect of the campaign; and what is expected to be its total cost.

Mr. John Patten: on 27 February my right hon. Friend announced the launch of a campaign of information and education to help to prevent drug misuse, and particularly heroin misuse. This complements the various drug treatment initiatives already undertaken by the Department.

The campaign is a product of discussions in the interdepartmental Ministerial group on the misuse of drugs and will form one part of the Goverment's plans to prevent drug misuse in conjunction with the activities of Home Office, Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, Department of Education and Science and the other United Kingdom Health Departments.

The first stage of the campaign is aimed at getting better information to parents and professionals in particular. As announced on 27 February, three leaflets for parents have been widely distributed to all general practitioners, health authorities, family practitioner committees, community health councils and local authorities — and are now available. Newspaper advertising in mid-March will help to ensure that all parents are aware of the leaflets. In addition the Central Office of Information has produced two short TV public information films which BBC and IBA have agreed to show.

The second part and main thrust of the campaign will be aimed specifically at young people. Ministers took the decision to pursue such a campaign only after intensive qualitative research by an independent company, Andrew Irving Associates. This asked whether a campaign should be mounted at all, whether there were significant dangers of a counter-productive effect and what messages and modes of delivery might be best received by young people. Their research found that most young people were already aware of illegal drugs — particularly heroin — but that they were often misinformed of the real dangers. They found no reason why young people should not respond to a careful presentation of the facts. They also recommended that any campaign would maximise its positive effects by concentrating on heroin: because it represented the greatest threat and because it would be extremely difficult to convey an accurate message about misuse of all drugs.

An advertising agency Yellowhammer Co. Ltd. was commissioned to develop the campaign and has been working closely with both the initial researchers and another company, Cragg Ross and Dawson Research Partnership, to identify and test the most effective messages and presentation. Careful fieldwork takes time and this second part of the campaign will start towards the end of April when TV advertisements will begin to appear in a series of showings over the next year. Our approach will present the real consequences — mental, physical, social, financial—of taking heroin.

In order to monitor the effectiveness of the campaign a market research agency, Research Bureau Limited, have been commissioned to establish baseline data on young people's attitudes before the campaign starts and, periodically, to evaluate any changes in attitude as the campaign proceeds. In this way, we shall have the information with which to consider adjustments to the emphasis of the campaign for optimum results. Monitoring will also enable us to decide whether and how the campaign might continue in subsequent years.

On the question of cost, I would refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by my right hon. and learned Friend to my hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Mr. Sackville) on 13 December at columns *585-86*. It is expected that some £2 million will be expended on the campaign and related initiatives before the end of 1985-86 — including the production of a supportive video training package for professionals along the lines of the Department's award winning solvent misuse package, "Illusions".

Pensioners (Energy Costs)

Mr. Frank Field asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what information he has as to the percentage of income spent on heating and on electricity by *(a)* single pensioners in receipt of state pension benefits, *(b)* married pensioners in receipt of state pension benefits, in (i) May 1979, (ii) May 1984 and (iii) the latest available date.

Mr. Whitney: This information is not available in the form requested. The table shows the percentage of gross normal weekly income spent in 1979 and in 1983 (the latest date for which figures are available) on fuel light and power (including electricity), and, separately, on electricity alone, by single pensioner households and by married couple pensioner households respectively.

	Expenditure as percentage of income			
	Single pensioner household		*Married couple pensioner household*	
	1979	*1983*	*1979*	*1983*
Fuel, light and power	10·5	10·8	7·6	7·8
Electricity	4·5	4·7	3·3	3·3

Sources: Family Expenditure Survey, 1979 and 1983.

Housing Benefits

Mr. Murphy asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what representations he has recently received from pensioners and pension organisations regarding the effect of revised tapers to housing benefits.

Mr. Whitney: Since 1 January the Department has received a number of letters from pensioners and pension organisations about the social security changes introduced in November. Some of these were about changes in housing benefit but only a very few specifically mentioned the revised tapers to housing benefits.

British Pensioners (Foreign Reciprocal Agreements)

Mr. John David Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Social Services with which countries there are reciprocal agreements whereby British pensioners, now living in those countries, are in receipt of indexed pension payments.

Mr. Whitney: There are 29 countries with which the United Kingdom has social security agreements which enable increases in retirement pensions to be paid to our pensioners. They are as follows:

Austria
Belgium
Bermuda
Cyprus
Denmark
Federal Republic of Germany
France
Gibraltar
Greece
Guernsey
Iceland
Irish Republic
Isle of Man
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Jersey
Luxembourg

Malta
Mauritius
Portugal
Sark
Spain
Switzerland
The Netherlands
The Philippines
Turkey
United States of America
Yugoslavia

The reciprocal agreements with Iceland and the Philippines were signed on 25 August 1983 and 27 February 1985 respectively. Retirement pension increases will be paid to our pensioners in these countries when the agreements are ratified by the Governments concerned in each case.

Resettlement Units

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will make a statement on the meeting on 5 March with the trades unions to discuss the future of the resettlement units and re-establishment centres.

Mr. Whitney: At the meeting with the Departmental trade union side held on 5 March we discussed the content of my hon. Friend's announcement on 5 February at columns *548-9* on the future of resettlement units and re-establishment centres and in particular the regional consultation programme which is shortly to be launched.

Occupational Therapists

Mr. Pawsey asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how present salary levels of occupational therapists in the National Health Service compare with those that existed in 1979.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The minimum and maximum basic pay rates at 1 April 1984 for occupational therapists were between 59 per cent. and 81 per cent. and higher than those which applied at 1 April 1979, according to grade.

Board and Lodging Payments

Mr. Wigley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will publish a table showing for each area in Wales the level of board and lodging payments being made in that area.

Mr. Whitney: A list of the supplementary benefit local limits for board and lodging payments was placed in the Library last November.

Commuting (Health Effects)

Mr. Murphy asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will make a response on behalf of the Government to the report of the European foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions on the effects of commuting on health, a copy of which has been sent to him.

Mr. John Patten: No. The report relates to only one of a series of research studies in related fields conducted by the European Foundation in Dublin and since it neither relates to United Kingdom experience nor makes recommendations, it calls for no response from us.

Attendance Allowance

Dr. David Clark asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will list the number of awards of attendance allowances at *(a)* the lower rate and *(b)* the upper rate, after review in each year since 1979.

Mr. Newton: The number of successful reviews for the years 1979 to 1983 is contained in "Social Security Statistics 1984" table 14.22. The number for 1984 is 23,184. Separate figures are not kept of the rate of the award following review.

Dr. David Clark asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many applicants have been refused attendance allowance at *(a)* the lower rate and *(b)* the higher rate in each year since 1979.

Mr. Newton: The number of rejections for the years 1979 to 1983 is contained in "Social Security Statistics 1984" table 14.05. The number for 1984 is 58,004. Applications for the allowance do not specify which of the two rates is being sought.

Dr. David Clark asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how much has been expended nationally on attendance allowances in each year since 1979.

Mr. Newton: The information is contained in the Government's recent Public Expenditure White Paper, "The Government's Expenditure Plans 1985-86 to 1987-88" Cmnd. 9428 Vol. II page 166 table 3.12.

Dr. David Clark asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will list the number of attendance allowance beneficiaries at the lower and higher rates, respectively, for each year since 1979.

Mr. Newton: The information for the years 1979 to 1983 is contained in "Social Security Statistics 1984" table 14.30. The numbers for 1984 are: higher rate 192,000; lower rate 277,000.

Dr. David Clark asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what safeguards there are to ensure that delegated medical practitioners make proper and full examinations in relation to claims for attendance allowance and take into account claimants' personal circumstances.

Mr. Newton: Medical examinations for attendance allowance are usually made by fee-paid medical practitioners trained to complete the requisite report form. This form is designed to obtain clinical information and attention and supervision needs. It includes the claimant's own statement of what needs to be done for him.

Decisions are normally made by delegated medical practitioners on behalf of the Attendance Allowance Board on the basis of the evidence provided in each case.

The general quality of reports made by examining medical officers is monitored by the regional senior medical officer who also, with the Attendance Allowance Board, monitors the quality of decisions made by the delegated medical practitioners. In some difficult cases, decisions may be made by the board itself.

Dunston Hill Hospital

Mr. McWilliam asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what is the expected life of the various individual buildings comprising Dunston hill hospital.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I understand that Dunston hill hospital has a long-term future. The hon. Member will need to contact the health authority direct for detailed information.

Departmental Managers (Accounting)

Mr. Wainwright asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what accounting developments are being made in his Department to give line managers better information about the cost and condition of the capital assets they are managing.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

General Practitioners (Fees)

Mr. Butterfill asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he is satisfied with the arrangements whereby general practitioners are able to claim an annual fee of £8·55 per patient by completing form FP1001 even where that patient is receiving contraceptive guidance, advice and treatment from a family planning clinic.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: These arrangements are the product of longstanding contractual arrangements.

This fee, which is paid by quarterly instalment, should represent payment for services over the course of 12 months. It is payable when the doctor accepts a patient, gives advice and conducts any necessary examination, and where appropriate prescribes contraceptives and provides any follow-up care. The fee is also payable where the doctor takes the necessary steps to determine a method of choice and accepts responsibility for any necessary care but advises the patient to attend an NHS clinic for the fitting of an occlusive cap or an intrauterine device.

When a doctor ceases to provide contraceptive services to the patient, for example when an NHS clinical takes over these responsibilities, we expect the doctor to notify the family practitioner committee and payment of the contraceptive service fee should cease.

Aspartame

Mr. Dykes asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will list the medicines which currently contain the intense sweetener Aspartame.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: Information about formulations of individual products is of commercial value and is given to the licensing authority in confidence. There are in fact no medicinal products containing aspartame currently being marketed in the United Kingdom.

Limited List Prescribing

Mr. Eastham asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what representations he has received from hospital consultants since publication of the limited list advocating a system whereby doctors in clinical charge of a patient may prescribe medications not on the limited list on a named patient basis, in cases where the patient is known to have an intolerance of the equivalent drug on the limited list; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend's replies to the hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed (Mr. Beith), and my hon. Friend the Member for Berkshire, East (Mr. MacKay) on 12 March at columns *136-138*. No hospital consultants can be identified amongst the small number of doctors who have made representations about prescribing medicines not on the selected list.

Mr. Eastham asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what arrangements he proposes to allow the composition of the limited drugs list to be reviewed on a national basis to take account of changes in medical practice or developments in medical knowledge.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Caithness and Sutherland (Mr. Maclennan) on 12 March at column *106*.

NHS (Pay Scales)

Mr. Meacher asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many persons working in the National Health Service are paid less than at a full-time rate of £80 a week; how many of these are full-time or part-time; how many in each case are paid, respectively, £10, £20, £30 or £40 and less than £80 a week; and what would be the cost of raising the incomes of all these persons to £80 a week.

Mr. John Patten: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Unemployment Review Officers

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Secretary of State for Social Services in how many local offices of his Department there is a full-time unemployment review officer.

Mr. Whitney: This information is not readily available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, I am able to say that 850 posts are presently allocated for unemployment review work in the Department's 453 local offices.

Re-establishment Centres

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many trainees are currently in re-establishment centres.

Mr. Whitney: The number of trainees attending re-establishment centres in England and Wales on 12 February 1985, the latest date for which figures are available, was 262.

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what discussions have taken place between his Department and the voluntary sector over the closure of re-establishment centres.

Mr. Whitney: The closure of resettlement units, which I think the hon. Member has in mind, is the subject of a process of consultation which is just beginning. A consultative letter has already been sent to voluntary organisations, local authorities and other interested bodies seeking their views on future provision for people without a settled way of life. Consultation will also be carried out locally by review teams within each social security region.

In the case of re-establishment centres, which generally share premises with resettlement units, a closure decision has been taken in the light of the increased provision made by the Manpower Services Commission in recent years.

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will list the re-establishment centres in England and Wales, indicating how many staff and what categories are employed in each centre.

Mr. Whitney: The table shows the names of the re-establishment centres in England and Wales and the number and grades of staff employed on re-establishment work in each centre:

Name of Centre	*HEO*	*EO*	*CO*	*Grade of Staff* *CA/Typist*	*Workshop Supervisors*	*Cooks*	*Resettlement Service Officers*	*Total*
Alvaston	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
Fazakerley	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	5
Leeds	—	1	1	—	4	—	—	6
Leicester	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
Newbury	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
Crown Quay Lodge	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Plawsworth	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	5
Southampton	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	3
South Wales	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	4
Walkden	—	1	2	—	5	—	—	8
West Midlands	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	5
Winterbourne	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	4
Woodhouse	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	5
Bridge House	—	1	1	—	3	—	—	5
Spur House	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3
Brady House	—	1	3	1½	3	½	—	9
Mill Street Manchester	—	1	2	½	2	1	—	6½
Henley-in-Arden	1	1	3	1	5	2	½	13½
	1	16	23	3	45	3½	½	92

Note:

Some of the staff shown above are also engaged on work other than re-establishment.

Unemployed Persons (Retraining)

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Secretary of State for Social Services following the closure of resettlement centres, what alternatives for retraining will be available to the long-term unemployed.

Mr. Whitney: I assume the hon. Member is referring to the closure of re-establishment centres which deal with the long-term unemployed and I, therefore, refer him to my reply to the hon. Member for Dunfermline, East (Mr. Brown) on 1 March at columns *338-39*.

Health Education Council

Mr. Wareing asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how the funding programmes of the Health Education Council are distributed as between the regional health authority areas.

Mr. John Patten: The Health Education Council's funds are mainly allocated to activities undertaken at national level, although some funding is reserved for regional or local initiatives. Among these in 1984-85, £91,000 was allocated to the council's coronary heart disease project in Wales, £69,500 to the Avon council on alcoholism and £41,000 to the North East council on alchololism, and £14,000 for the joint funding with Mersey regional health authority of a regional health promotion officer post. In addition grants are made each year to district health authorities to support the cost of seconding health education officers to health education diploma courses, and in 1984-85, £250,000 was allocted for this purpose.

Mr. Wareing asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will list the names of the members of the Health Education Council, indicating in each case their regional health authority areas of residence.

Mr. John Patten: The information is as follows:

Area of residence of members RHA/Welsh Health Authority/ Northern Ireland Health & Social Services Board

Sir Brian H. Bailey, OBE JP (Chairman)—South Western
A. S. D. Service Esq. (Vice Chairman)—N. E. Thames
Professor F. P. Ashley, BDS FCS RCS (Eng) PhD.—S. W. Thames
Miss J. M. Bisgood, CBE—Wessex
Professor A. W. Clare, MD MPhil MB BCh BAO MRCPI MRCPsych—S. E. Thames
Dr. J. S. Garrow, PhD MD MB ChB FRCPEd—N. W. Thames
Dr. J. A. M. Gray, MB ChB DPH—Oxford
Miss T. Holland, BSc SRN NDN HV—Trent
P. R. A. Jacques, Esq.—N. E. Thames
Mrs. C. I. Johnson, SRN SCM HV—N. W. Thames
Dr. D. S. Karandikar, MB BSc MFCM DPH—West Midlands
Professor W. I. N. Kessel, MD FRCP FRCPE FRCPsych—North Western
A. H. Kirkman, Esq. FIEH FRSH—Wessex
Mrs. J. M. Leighton, BA BEd—Oxford
Professor W. S. Lowry, MSc FRCP FRCPI—Eastern health and social services board (Northern Ireland)
J. McIntosh, Esq. MA—N. W. Thames
Dr. J. R. Moss, MA PhD MA (Educ)—N. E. Thames
R. M. Nicholls, Esq. BA DSA AHA—South Western
Mrs. A. M. Parker, BA Dip SA—Oxford
J. F. H. Pease-Watkin, Esq. BSc.—N. W. Thames
W. B. Rhodes, Esq. FPS—S. W. Thames
Dr. S. A. Small, MA FRC GP DCH DRCOG — South Glamorgan health authority
Dr. B. K. Tones, MA MSc PhD—Yorkshire
N. H. Whitehouse, Esq. BChD DDPH DPH — South Glamorgan health authority

There is currently one vacant place on the council following the resignation of Mr. Richard Parish, who lived within the area of Mersey regional health authority.

Medicines Commission

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will take steps to add a representative of a firm manufacturing natural medicines to the Medicines Commission advising him in the practice of medicine.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: We will bear the suggestion in mind when making new appointments. Members of the commission are not, however, appointed to represent some particular interest, but rather for their individual capacity for sound and impartial judgment based upon expertise and wide experience in a field of activity relevant to the administration of the Medicines Act 1968.

Opticians (Dispensing)

Mr. Michael Morris asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he is considering mounting a publicity campaign on the public's rights with regard to dispensing by opticians under the Health and Social Security Act 1984.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: We see no justification for using scarce National Health Service resources for an expensive advertising campaign to supplement the wide Press coverage that has already been attracted by the Government measures to improve competition in the supply and dispensing of spectacles.

Overseas Pharmaceutical Production Plants

Mr. Michael Morris asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many inspectors of good manufacturing practice are available for inspection of pharmaceutical production plants outside the United Kingdom.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: There are 21 inspectors (20 from our Department; one from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) available for inspection of pharmaceutical production plants outside and inside the United Kingdom. Inspections cover products for both human and veterinary use.

Mr. Michael Morris asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many inspections of overseas pharmaceutical production plants were undertaken in the latest 12 months for which data are available.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: 121 overseas pharmaceutical production plants were inspected under the Medicines Act in the 12 months ending 31 December 1984.

Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

Mr. Hickmet asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) why the National Health Service pays for the sales promotion expenditure of companies within the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme at the rate of 9 per cent. of the value of the industry's sales to the National Health Service; and if he will make a statement;

(2) when the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme will be next reviewed; and if he will make a statement;

(3) whether expenditure on advertising expended by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry in opposing his limited drugs list proposals will be an allowable expense within the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme; and if he will make a statement;

(4) pursuant to his reply of 28 February, *Official Report*, column *273*, why allowable sales promotion expenditure of companies within the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme is to be reduced to 9 per cent. of the industry's sales to the National Health Service; how the current figure of 10 per cent. was arrived at; when he next plans to review its level; and if he will make a statement;

(5) pursuant to the reply of 28 February, *Official Report*, column *272*, if he will list the expenses incurred by general practitioners which fall within those described as directly reimbursed expenses; how general practitioners claim such expenses; and if he will make a statement;

(6) pursuant to his reply of 28 February, *Official Report*, column *272*, if he will itemise the services, in respect of which general practitioners were reimbursed indirectly £9,290 in 1983-84; if he will describe the system by which this money is claimed and paid; and if he will make a statement;

(7) pursuant to his replies of 25 February, *Official Report*, column *71*, and 28 February, *Official Report*, column *272*, what steps his Department took in the latest year for which complete returns are available to satisfy itself that expenditure incurred by companies within the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme on representatives, advertising, literature and information items was reasonable; when the last comprehensive review of such expenditure took place; and if he will make a statement;

(8) pursuant to his reply of 28 February, *Official Report*, column *273*, if he will explain the nature of the ad hoc formula which is used to control sales promotion expenditure within the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme; how the formula is applied; what are its components; and if he will make a statement;

(9) pursuant to his answer of 9 January, *Official Report*, column *497*, what steps his Department takes to satisfy itself that gifts offered by drugs companies and received by general practitioners do not contravene the advice given by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry; and if he will make a statement;

(10) how he satisfies himself that expenditure on representatives by companies within the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme is reasonable; what assumptions he makes for this purpose about the level and manner of the remuneration of representatives; what is the source of the information upon which he bases these assumptions; and if he will make a statement;

(11) pursuant to his reply of 28 February, *Official Report*, column *272*, what was the average total sum which general practitioners actually received from the National Health Service and from all other sources of public money for which he has responsibility, by way of income, fees, expenses or any other payments *(a)* in the period from 1 April 1983 to 31 December 1983 (grossed up to give an annual figure) and *(b)* in the year from 1 January 1984.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I shall let my hon. Friend have replies as soon as possible.

Public Laboratories

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what medical bodies he intends to consult while considering his proposal to transfer the public health laboratory service's 52 regional and area laboratories to the administration of health authorities.

Mr. John Patten [*pursuant to his reply,* 15 March 1985, c. *330*]: It is our intention to consult a wide range of professional bodies and organisations on the report of the review of the public health laboratory service (PHLS). All major medical bodies and others with an interest in the work of the PHLS will be included in this consultation. The list of these bodies is not finalised.

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what resources he will make available to health authorities to enable them to continue recruitment of well-trained consultants to the laboratories of the public health laboratory service and to maintain a clinical microbiological service, a public health microbiological service and co-ordination for national epidemiological work in the 52 laboratories if they are to administer them in the future.

Mr. John Patten [*pursuant to his reply,* 15 March 1985, c. *330*]: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to her on 4 March at column *414*. No decision on whether to implement any of the recommendations contained in the report of the review of the public health laboratory service will be taken until the consultation exercise referred to in my earlier reply has been completed.

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services in which spheres of research the public health laboratory service and the Department of Health and Social Security are currently working jointly.

Mr. John Patten [*pursuant to his reply,* 15 March 1985, c. *330*]: The public health laboratory service board carries out a wide range of research on behalf of the National Health Service and the Department. The major projects currently in progress are:

Inactivation of haemorrhagic fever viruses by beta-propiolactone;
Human Growth Hormone production;
Use of microbial enzymes as diagnostic reagents for the determination of drug levels in blood;
Production of anthrax vaccine;
Studies on heat inactivation of hepatitis A virus with special reference to shellfish;
Initial evaluation work of AIDS screening tests to assess which will be most suitable for use in the National Health Service;
A study of human hydatid disease;
A study of the malthus conductivity monitoring system for routine blood cultures in a clinical microbiology laboratory;
A pilot study for monitoring the DHSS rubella immunisation campaign;
An epidemiological study of the relationships of AIDS in patients with disorders of blood coagulation to its possible acquisition through treatment with blood products.

WALES

Equal Opportunities

Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for Wales what arrangements are in hand to ensure that his Department complies with the monitoring and positive action recommendations of the draft code of the Equal Opportunities Commission following the publication on 9 February 1984 of the "Programme of Action on Women in the Civil Service."

Mr. Nicholas Edwards: Existing joint management and trade union machinery is being used at Departmental and national level to review such matters as promotion, training and the incidence of part-time working. A joint management/trade union working party is being set up within my Department to consider the programme of action and its implications. All staff without discrimination are encouraged to attend internal developmental training courses and to make use of training opportunities provided through the Civil Service college.

Ancient Monuments

Mr. Hordern asked the Secretary of State for Wales what is the cost of looking after ancient monuments in Wales; how much is received by admission fees; what is the average admission fee; and what is its subsidy.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: During the financial year 1984-85, the costs of maintenance, restoration and provision of services at monuments in the care of my right hon. Friend are estimated at £1·06 million [excluding staffing costs and other overheads]. The estimated amount received from admission fees during that period is £0·8 million. The average admission charge is 55 pence. Expenditure on looking after the monuments is not directly dependent on the level of admission receipts and there is, therefore, no separate allocation in the form of a subsidy.

Public Health Facilities

Dr. Roger Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he plans to make any changes to the provision of public health facilities in Wales at regional and area level; and if he will make a statement regarding the continued availability of such services as are now provided at the public health laboratory at the West Wales general hospital, Carmarthen.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: I shall write to the hon. Gentleman and place a copy of my letter in the Library.

Education (Expenditure)

Mr. Best asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he will give the figures, expressed in constant terms, for overall expenditure on education in Wales and for the number of school pupils for each of the last 10 years for which figures are available: and if he will express the expenditure figures as an amount per pupil in each year.

Mr. John Stradling Thomas: The education expenditure figures and school pupil numbers for the 10 years commencing with 1974-75 are as shown in the following Table. In expressing costs per school pupil, figures based on local authority current expeniture on schools have also been included.

(1) *Financial Year*	*(2)* *Net education expenditure at 1983-84 prices* *(£ million)*	*(3)* *Net local authority current expenditure on schools at 1983-84 prices* *(£ million)*	*(4)* *School pupil numbers (at January each year)* *(thousands)*	*(5)* *Overall education expenditure expressed as cost per pupil in real terms* *£*	*(6)* *L.A. current schools expenditure expressed as cost per pupil in real terms* *£*
1974-75	730·4	461·6	547·3	1,335	843
1975-76	741·3	476·2	552·8	1,321	861
1976-77	721·0	473·9	553·3	1,352	856
1977-78	663·6	455·2	549·9	1,207	828
1978-79	670·8	458·8	543·1	1,235	845
1979-80	648·2	448·5	533·4	1,215	841
1980-81	666·4	464·7	520·2	1,281	893
1981-82	661·3	468·6	506·9	1,305	924
1982-83	669·3	466·5	494·1	1,355	944
1983-84	673·0	470·0	485·6	1,386	968

Notes on the Figures

1. Overall expenditure figures are on the same basis as those shown in table 3.16 of the Public Expenditure White Paper (Cmnd. 9428-II) and include net current and capital expenditure of the department and local authorities in Wales. They exclude expenditure outside our pogramme responsibilities namely on Universities and mandatory student awards.

2. Out-turn expenditure figures have been converted to real terms (1983-84 basis) by the applicaion of the GDP deflator.

3. School pupil numbers are the full time equivalents of pupils in nursery, primary and secondary schools as at Januay each year.

Road Schemes (Public Inquiries)

Mr. Clifford Forsythe asked the Secretary of State for Wales what arrangements his Department has for paying legal and other costs associated with public inquiries into new road schemes.

Mr. John Stradling Thomas: Arrangements for awarding costs in connection with public inquiries into road proposals are set out in Welsh Office circular 35/65—a copy of which is in the Library.

Leasehold Reform Act 1967

Mr. Ron Davies asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he has any plans to introduce legislation to amend the Leasehold Reform Act 1967; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: No. It is premature to consider any changes to the legislation until the Committee set up last year under Mr. Edward Nugee QC, which is looking at the problems arising from the management of privately owned blocks of flats, has reported.

Mr. Ron Davies asked the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has received on the operation of the Leasehold Reform Act 1967; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: None in recent months.

Castlebeg Investments (Jersey) Ltd.

Mr. Ron Davies asked the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has received concerning the activities of Castlebeg Ltd. in the purchase of freeholds in south Wales; what action he proposes in the light of these representations; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Nicholas Edwards: My Department has received two letters and some six telephone calls about Castlebeg Investments (Jersey) Limited. The issues involved are for the courts and in some cases, for the leasehold valuation tribunals to decide and I have no power to intervene. However, I am concerned about the alleged activities of this company and will be keeping a close watch on the situation.

Berwyn Consultation Zone

Mr. Ron Davies asked the Secretary of State for Wales, on what basis the Berwyn consultation zone has been established by the Nature Conservancy Council; what area of land it is designed to protect; how many management agreements have to date been concluded; and over what area of land.

Mr. John Stradling Thomas: I shall reply as soon as possible.

M4 (Design Life)

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the effects on the theoretical design life of more recently constructed sections of the M4 of the transference of heavy freight from rail to road being maintained after the coal strike for a period of *(a)* one year and *(b)* five years.

Mr. John Stradling Thomas [*pursuant to his reply*, of 15 March 1985, c. *312*]: On the assumption that the additional traffic was to be maintained it is estimated that the theoretical design life of the more recently constructed sections of the M4 could be reduced by around 2 per cent. after one year and by around 10 per cent. after five years. In practice the actual condition of the motorway is continually monitored.

NATIONAL FINANCE

Taxation

Mr. Andrew F. Bennett asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what would have been the gross weekly income required on 1 November 1984, to maintain the real disposable income of a single person, taking account of payments of tax, national insurance, and 5 per cent. of earnings as superannuation contributions, who on 1 November 1974 earned *(a)* £20, *(b)* £25, *(c)* £30, *(d)* £35, *(e)* £40, *(f)* £45, *(g)* £50, *(h)* £60, *(i)* £70, *(j)* £80, *(k)* £90, *(l)* £100, *(m)* £125, *(n)* £150, *(o)* £175, *(p)* £200, *(q)* £225 and *(r)* £250, per week;

(2) what would have been the gross weekly income required on 1 November 1984, to maintain the real

disposable income of a married man with two children under 11 years of age, taking account of payments of tax, national insurance, and 5 per cent. of earnings as superannuation contributions, who on 1 November 1974 earned *(a)* £20, *(b)* £25, *(c)* £30, *(d)* £35, *(e)* £40, *(f)* £45, *(g)* £50, *(h)* £60, *(i)* £70, *(j)* £80, *(k)* £90, *(l)* £100, *(m)* £125, *(n)* £150, *(o)* £175, *(p)* £200, *(q)* £225 and *(r)* £250, per week.

Mr. Moore: Information is given in the following table:

Gross weekly earnings November 1974 £	*Gross weekly earnings needed in November 1984 to maintain the level of real disposable income* of November 1974*	
	Single man	*Married man with 2 children under 11 years of age*
20	63	52
25	79	70
30	94	87
35	110	102
40	126	118
45	142	134
50	158	150
60	190	182
70	224	216
80	257	250
90	287	280
100	317	310
125	390	384
150	464	460
175	534	532
200	599	601
225	662	667
230	726	731

* Gross earnings plus child benefit (where appropriate) less income tax, NIC and superannuation contributions.

Mr. Andrew F. Bennett asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what would have been the gross weekly income required on 1 November 1984, to maintain the real disposable income of a single person, taking account of payments of tax, national insurance, and 5 per cent. of earnings as superannuation contributions, who on 1 November 1969 earned *(a)* £10, *(b)* £12, *(c)* £14, *(d)* £16, *(e)* £18, *(f)* £20, *(g)* £25, *(h)* £30, *(i)* £35, *(j)* £40, *(k)* £45, *(l)* £50, *(m)* £60, *(n)* £70, *(o)* £80, *(p)* £90, *(q)* £100 and *(r)* £125, per week;

(2) what would have been the gross weekly income required on 1 November 1984, to maintain the real disposable income of a married man with two children under 11 years of age, taking account of payments of tax, national insurance, and 5 per cent. of earnings as superannuation contributions, who on 1 November 1969 earned *(a)* £10, *(b)* £12, *(c)* £14, *(d)* £16, *(e)* £18, *(f)* £20, *(g)* £25, *(h)* £30, *(i)* £35, *(j)* £40, *(k)* £45, *(l)* £50, *(m)* £60, *(n)* £70, *(o)* £80, *(p)* £90, *(q)* £100 and *(r)* £125, per week.

Mr. Moore: Information is given in the following table:

Gross weekly earnings November 1969 £	*Gross weekly earnings needed in November 1984 to maintain the level of real disposable income* of November 1969*	
	Single man	*Married man with 2 children under 11 years of age*
10	50	42
12	62	53
14	74	63
16	85	75
18	96	87
20	107	100
25	135	128
30	163	157
35	192	185
40	221	214
45	250	243
50	275	269
60	325	319
70	379	369
80	440	427
90	500	486
100	564	546
125	707	682

* Gross earnings plus child benefit (where appropriate) less income tax, NIC and superannuation contributions.

Company Taxation

Mr. Deakins asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the change in real terms since 1978-79 in the amount of taxation paid by companies.

Mr. Moore: Including companies operating in the North Sea, an increase of about 100 per cent.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the current rate of tax payable by companies in respect of income derived from assets in the ownership of the company; and what is the rate of tax payable when such assets are transferred to the pension fund of the company.

Mr. Moore: I shall let my hon. Friend have a reply as soon as possible.

£1 Note

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the expected useful life of (i) an English £1 note and (ii) a Scottish £1 note.

Mr. Ian Stewart: The expected average useful life of an English £1 note is about 10 months. Scottish banknotes are not the responsibility of the Government, but of the note-issuing banks concerned. I have no reason to believe, however, that the useful life span of Scottish notes is significantly different from that of Bank of England notes.

Tax Offices (Staff)

Mr. Ashdown asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a list showing, by grades of staff, the tax office staffing complements allocated to Inland Revenue south-west region since April 1981, identifying the date of each change and the reasons for each change.

Mr. Moore: The complements allocated since April 1981 are as follows. Changes in complement (increases as well as decreases) have arisen for a variety of reasons including legislative changes, tranfers of blocks of work between regions, management measures leading to more efficient procedures and movements in taxpayer populations. A comprehensive reconciliation of all these changes could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

South west region complements

	Inspector and above	*Tax officer (HG)*	*Tax officer*	*Clerical assistant*	*Typist/Other*	*Total*
1 April 1981	339	469	850	816	220·5	2,694·5
1 July 1981	339	470	850	779·5	220·5	2,659
1 October 1981	331·5	470	850	779·5	220·5	2,651·5
1 January 1982	331·5	470	821	775	219·5	2,617
1 April 1982	325	467	799	799	219·5	2,609·5
1 July 1982	325	467	814	799	219·5	2,624·5
1 October 1982	316	467	838	789	215	2,625
1 January 1983	316	467	838	789	215	2,625
1 April 1983	316	471	842	737	217	2,583
1 July 1983	316	465	816	742	221	2,560
1 October 1983	316	458	797	700	222	2,493
1 January 1984	316	459	774	650	220·5	2,419·5
1 April 1984	316	463	772	645	219	2,415
1 July 1984	316	462	768	662	219	2,427
1 August 1984	314	462	768	662	219	2,425
1 October 1984	314	471·5	772	659	226	2,442·5
31 October 1984	348·5	471·5	772	659	226	2,477
1 January 1985	348·5	481·5	769	656	225·5	2,480·5
1 April 1985	348·5	491	786	669	226·5	2,521

Mr. Ashdown asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a list showing, by grades of staff, the staffing complements allocated to tax offices in Yeovil since April 1981, identifying the date of each change and the reasons for each change.

Mr. Moore: The complements issued to tax offices in Yeovil since April 1981 are as follows. Changes in local office complements reflect changes in the regional complement and variations in local circumstances. A comprehensive reconciliation of the marginal changes (increases as well as decreases) since 1 April 1981 could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Yeovil tax offices complements

	1 April 1981	*1 April 1982*	*1 April 1983*	*1 October 1983*	*1 April 1984*	*1 July 1984*
Yeovil 1						
Inspector and above	6·0	6·0	6·0	6·0	6·0	6·0
Tax Officer (Higher Grade)	9·0	10·0	10·0	10·0	10·0	10·0
Tax Officer	15·0	14·0	14·0	13·0	13·0	13·0
Clerical Assistant	13·0	12·0	12·0	11·0	10·0	11·0
Typist/other	5·0	5·0	5·0	5·0	4·5	4·5
	48·0	47·0	47·0	45·0	43·5	44·5
Yeovil 2						
Inspector and above	4·5	4·5	4·5	4·5	4·5	4·5
Tax Officer Higher Grade	7·0	7·0	7·0	7·0	7·0	7·0
Tax Officer	10·0	11·0	13·0	12·0	11·0	12·0
Clerical Assistant	9·0	10·0	12·0	11·0	10·0	11·0
Typist/other	3·5	3·0	3·5	3·5	3·0	3·0
	34·0	35·5	40·0	38·0	35·5	37·5

Yeovil District (merged)

	1 January 1985	*1 April 1985*
Inspector and above	11·0	11·0
Tax Officer (Higher Grade)	18·0	18·0
Tax Officer	26·0	27·0
Clerical Assistant	23·0	23·0
Typist/other	7·5	7·5
	85·5	86·5

Hot Take Away Food

Mr. Pawsey asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the take-away food trade regarding the definition of hot take-away food for the purposes of the operation of the Finance Act 1984.

Mr. Hayhoe: Treasury Ministers have received a number of representations and most have concerned the scope of the definition; but it has also been claimed that the definition is insufficiently precise, particularly as regards freshly baked products.

Minimum Income Level

Mr. Thurnham asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate *(a)* the number of P11D forms concerning benefits in kind which would be submitted, *(b)* the loss of revenue and *(c)* the administrative costs saving in a full financial year if the minimum income level were raised to £9,500, £10,500, £11,500, £12,500, £13,000 and £14,500 per annum respectively.

Mr. Moore: I shall let my hon Friend have a reply as soon as possible.

Average Income

Mr. Butterfill asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the average income from all sources of all individuals aged 16 years or over, whether or not they are in employment or otherwise economically active, at the latest date for which figures are available.

Mr. Moore: Estimates of the average income from all sources of all individuals aged 16 years and over are not available. Estimates of total household income, which include the income of persons under 16, are, however, published in table 4.4 of the *United Kingdom National Accounts*. A rough guide to average income can be obtained by dividing these aggregates by the total population aged 16 and over. For 1983, the latest year for which figures are available, average income calculated in this way was about £5,300 before tax, and about £4,200 after deducting tax and national insurance and occupational pension contributions.

Business Expansion Scheme

Dr. McDonald asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will publish in the *Official Report* the costs of the business expansion scheme in 1983-84 and 1984-85, as a whole, and the costs of the subsidies for that part of the business expansion scheme relating to property development in 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(2) if he will publish in the *Official Report* the number of applications for tax relief under the business expansion scheme for schemes relating to property development in 1983-84 and 1984-85.

Mr. Moore: Information about the business expansion scheme in 1983-84 is not yet complete, but the estimates published in the "Treasury Economic Progress Report", December 1984, indicated that at least £75 million was invested in over 300 companies. Of these, eight were property development companies who received a total of just over £1 million of investment. The direct revenue costs of tax relief are approximately 50 per cent. of the amounts invested. It is too early to provide estimates in respect of 1984-85.

Building Industry (VAT)

Mr. Thurnham asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from the Building Employers Confederation concerning the implications of the value added tax registration threshold for the administrative efficiency of the industry; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Hayhoe: The Building Employers Confederation and other industry bodies have asked for the registration threshold to be reduced to nil for any person supplying building services.

I refer my hon. Friend to my speech in the Adjournment debate on Friday 25 January 1985, at columns 1307-12.

Lorries (Fuel Oil Checks)

Mr. Rooker asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer which branch of Customs and Excise is responsible for stopping and checking whether lorries are running on red or white fuel oil.

Mr. Hayhoe: The checking of fuel in the tanks of lorries is carried out by mobile testing units controlled by the Revenue Duties Directorate of Customs and Excise.

Occupational Pension Trusts

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the yield of tax that would be obtained if the funds held by occupational trusts as reserves and not allocated as the entitlement of individual beneficiaries were taxed at the same rate as the income drawn by companies from assets in the ownership of the company.

Mr. Moore: I shall let my hon. Friend have a reply as soon as possible.

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the total value of the funds invested in the occupational pension trusts approved for tax purposes for beneficiaries in private sector employment; and what is the proportion which can be identified as having been allocated to particular beneficiaries.

Mr. Moore: I shall let my hon. Friend have a reply as soon as possible.

Export Bank (Report)

Mr. Dover asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he anticipates that the working party examining the need for an export bank is likely to produce its findings.

Mr. Peter Rees: Discussions on the possible role for a private sector export bank are being actively pursued with a wide range of interested parties, including both users and providers of export finance. It is not possible to forecast as yet when these discussions will be completed.

Post-tax Profits

Mr. McKelvey asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a table in the *Official Report* showing the post-tax profits of the following sectors expressed as a percentage of gross national product in 1970, 1975, 1980 and the latest available date *(a)* manufacturing industry, *(b)* financial institutions and *(c)* oil companies.

Mr. Peter Rees: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Investment Income (Taxation)

Mrs. McCurley asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters and representations he has received on the taxation of a married woman's investment income.

Mr. Moore: I shall let my hon. Friend have a reply as soon as possible.

Privatisation (Profits)

Mr. Norman Hogg asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer why Her Majesty's Treasury presents the profits from privatisation and the sale of council houses as negative spending rather than asset sales.

Mr. Peter Rees [*pursuant to his reply*, 11 March 1985, c. *59*]: Receipts from privatisation and the sale of council houses are classified as asset sales. Receipts from asset sales, have always been treated as negative public expenditure in the national accounts and there is no reason to treat sales of council houses or shares differently from other sales of public assets. This treatment, which accords with international guidelines, is also followed in the definition of the public expenditure planning total. Major central Government asset sales are brought together in the special sales of assets programme (see Cmnd. 9428, table 2.14) for easy identification. Council house sales are undertaken by local authorities and are included in the housing programme (see Cmnd. 9428, table 3.7).

£ Sterling

Mr. Foulkes asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effect a change in the exchange rate between the £ sterling and the European currency unit has on financial transactions between the United Kingdom and the EEC.

Mr. Ian Stewart [*pursuant to his reply*, 11 March 1985, c. *61*]: The effect of exchange rate fluctuations on EC financial transactions is complex. VAT payments are initially established in ecu. A fall in the value of sterling relative to the ecu after the exchange rates used for budgetary transactions have been set results in additional sterling payments being required during the budgetary year to make up the required ecu payment. However, the definitivee VAT obligation is assessed on the basis of the value of the United Kingdom VAT base in sterling terms, so all other things being equal the United Kingdom could expect to receive a refund the following August of any over-payments made in the preceding budgetary year.

Agricultural levies are set in ecu terms. The sterling receipts received and paid over to the Community therefore vary with the exchange rate. Customs duties are normally expressed in percentage terms of the sterling value of the import.

Receipts from the Community budget which are expressed as a percentage of United Kingdom expenditure are paid in sterling. However, at the commitment stage the Commission makes budgetary provision in ecus; changes in the exchange rates between the date of commitment and the date of payment therefore affect the size of the sterling payment. The major payment denominated in ecu terms in recent years has been the agreed United Kingdom refunds. The amount of sterling received has depended on the exchange rate on the date that payment of the refund was authorised.

While agricultural receipts are denominated in sterling terms the levels of price support are determined by sterling's "green rate" against the ecu. If the green rate diverges significantly from the market rate both agricultural receipts and levy payments are affected. The position is further complicated by the imposition of positive or negative Monetary Compensatory Amounts.

These effects are difficult to quantify, and, as in the case of green rates for agricultural expenditure, may affect some sectors more than others. But over the long run there is no reason why exchange rate changes should have a particularly distorting effect upon financial transactions with the European Community as opposed to other parts of the world.

EC Budget

Mr. Foulkes asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a table showing for each year since 1972 *(a)* net payments to the European Community budget excluding overseas aid, *(b)* receipts from the agricultural guarantee and guidance fund, *(c)* receipts from the social fund and *(d)* receipts from the regional development funds.

Mr. Ian Stewart [*pursuant to his reply*, 11 March 1985; c. *61*]: The information available is set out in the table. The United Kingdom did not start to pay contributions to the Community Budget until 1973; the final outturn figures for 1984 are not yet available. Details of the United Kingdom's attributed share of overseas aid contributions are not available by calendar year and the net contributions figures given in the table therefore include this expenditure.

	Net Contribution (including overseas aid)	*EAGGF Receipts*	*Social Fund Receipts £ million*	*Regional Development Funds Receipts*
1973	102	63	—	—
1974	29	112	16	—
1975	*−56	342	19	1
1976	167	207	11	29
1977	369	180	49	60
1978	822	329	62	35
1979	947	371	87	71
1980	706	550	95	173
1981	397	683	107	145
1982	606	791	152	111
1983	647	1,082	128	139

* Negative sign denotes a net receipt.

EC (Contributions and Receipts)

Mr. Teddy Taylor asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the total amount paid to the European Economic Community and the total amount received in grant since the beginning of the financial year.

Mr. Ian Stewart [*pursuant to his reply*, 14 March 1985, c. *259*]: Established figures for the amount received in grant during the 1984-85 financial year are currently available only for the period ending 31 December. For the period 1 April to 31 December 1984 the figures for payments and receipts, including our refunds from the Community, were £2,494 million and £1,831 million respectively.

EC (Advance Payments)

Mr. Teddy Taylor asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer why he has presented two separate supplementary estimates, for £99 million and £265 million, respectively, for advance payments to the Common Market; and on what basis they have been calculated as representing one month's payment of European Economic Community own-resources other than value added tax own-resources.

Mr. Ian Stewart [*pursuant to his reply*, 14 March 1985, c. *259*]: There is only one Spring supplementary estimate for the Budget of the European Communities. It was first presented to Parliament on 14 February (HC 183 of 1984-85) and later revised to take account of new information and new decisions. The revised Supplementary Estimate for £364 million was then presented on 28 February (HC 227 of 1984-85). This allows for 3 payments to the Community in the final quarter of the 1984-85 financial year of non-VAT own resources to be made in the month after collection, rather than two months after collection. These payments do not involve any net addition to public expenditure. Details were given in the Financial Secretary's note also presented to Parliament on 28 February.

The estimates of these payments are based on the provisional accounts of Customs and Excise and the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce. They represent a non-audited statement of the amount recorded in the Department's accounts for the monies collected and deferred for customs duties and agricultural and sugar and isoglucose levies for the months in question.

CIVIL SERVICE

Mr. Montague Alfred

Mr. Campbell-Savours asked the Minister for the Civil Service whether Mr. Montague Alfred is currently in the employ of the state.

Mr. Hayhoe: The appointment of Mr. Montague Alfred as Chief Executive of the Property Services Agency ended on 12 March 1984. He is not currently employed in the Civil Service.

ENERGY

Energy Prices

Mr. Frank Field asked the Secretary of State for Energy what information he has as to the average domestic price per comparable unit of *(a)* gas, *(b)* electricity and *(c)* domestic fuel oil in (i) May 1979 and (ii) May 1984, in the following countries: the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Italy, the United States of America and Canada.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith: Comparable information for May 1979 and May 1984 is not readily available for the countries specified. The available data for the second quarters of 1979 and 1984 are shown in the table:

	Average revenue from sales of gas to households in pence per therm		*Average revenue from sales of electricity to households in pence per kWh*		*Average price of light heating oil to households in pence per litre*	
	1979 quarter 2	*1984 quarter 2*	*1979 quarter 2*	*1984 quarter 2*	*1979 quarter 2*	*1984 quarter 2*
Canada	10·3	29·0	*(1·24)	n/a	6·1	21·3
France	*(38·0)	‡(63·8)	*(4·44)	‡(5·90)	11·9	25·9
Germany	*(32·8)	‡(55·6)	4·45	6·31	13·5	22·0
Italy	27·6	54·2	2·46	n/a	9·8	29·8
Netherlands	‖(21·0)	‖(45·7)	*(4·51)	‡(6·36)	11·6	24·1
Norway	†—	†—	1·47	2·87	10·9	26·3
UK	18·7	41·4	2·80	5·10	10·2	22·3
USA	14·2	41·7	2·17	5·24	8·4	22·8

Source: OECD

* Average for 1979

† No consumption

‡ Average for 1983

‖ See Note (i) below.

Notes:

(i) Except for gas prices in the Netherlands (which relate to an annual consumption of 3000 cu. meters) the prices shown above for gas and electricity are based on average revenue per unit consumed. In general this will differ from the price derived for a given level of annual consumption.

(ii) International comparisons of energy prices are difficult to construct because of incompatibilities in the basic data. They require careful interpretation because of movements in exchange rates and variation in the timing of tariff revisions between countries. The above figures are based on exchange rates prevailing in the second quarters of 1979 and 1984 respectively: had they all been based on 1984 rates a different picture would have been shown.

n/a = not available.

Coal Mining Industry (Dismissals)

Mr. Hardy asked the Secretary of State for Energy what information he has as to how many employees have been dismissed by the National Coal Board in the last four weeks; and, of these, how many have not been convicted in the courts.

Mr. David Hunt: The dismissal of employees is a matter for the National Coal Board.

Coal Industry Dispute (Convictions)

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Energy what was the basis for his statement on Radio Scotland on Tuesday 12 March that 900 miners have been convicted in courts for offences arising out of the miners' strike in Scotland; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Peter Walker: The information was obtained from the National Coal Board, which subsequently informed me that the figures that it had given related to the number of persons against whom proceedings had been instituted rather than the number of convictions. I am pleased to say that this mistake in its advice was quickly spotted by the NCB, and the correct figure for the number of convictions in Scotland relating to the coal dispute was given to the House last week. As at 6 March, proceedings have been instituted against 1046 persons, and 583 persons have been convicted. Around 251 cases have not yet been completed.

I wrote last week to the hon. Member for Fife, Central (Mr. Hamilton) and confirmed the correct figures to him.

SCOTLAND

Ancient Monuments

Mr. Hordern asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the average charge made for admission to visit ancient monuments in Scotland; what income is derived by these charges; what is the cost of looking after these ancient monuments; and how much subsidy is paid.

Mr. Ancram: The information requested is as follows for the finacial year 1984-85. It does not include certain other items of income and expenditure related to the monuments, eg preparation and sales of publications etc. No specific allocation of funds is made in the form of a subsidy.

	£
Average adult admission price for the 73 monuments for which a charge is made	0·48
Estimated income from admissions	1,530,000
Estimated expenditure on all ancient monuments in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland (includes £4,800,000 estimated staff costs and associated overheads)	8,270,000

Departmental Managers (Accounting)

Mr. Wainwright asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what accounting developments are being made in his Department to give line managers better information about the cost and condition of the capital assets they are managing.

Mr. Younger: As part of its programme of financial management improvements my Department has introduced a financial information and control system for the Scottish Office other than the prison service which provides line managers with detailed analyses of costs, including the costs of using capital assets.

For the prison service a separate but similar management accounting system is in being, and in addition a physical condition survey of the prisons estate is nearing completion: this will provide comprehensive data on the condition of all buildings and associated services.

Wyndford Recreation Centre

Mr. Craigen asked the Secretary of State for Scotland when Glasgow district council will be notified of approval of the urban aid application in respect of the Wyndford recreation centre about which the Minister wrote to the hon. Member for Glasgow, Maryhill on 21 January.

Mr. Ancram: The council was informed by the Scottish Development Department in early February of my decision to approve the additional post of project supervisor for the centre. This was confirmed in a letter issued on 14 March formally revising the offer issued on 12 October 1983.

Woodlands (Conversion)

Mr. Ron Davies asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if it is the policy of the Forestry Commission to presume against the conversion of woodlands to agriculture; and what are the conditions which have to be satisfied before such conversion is approved by the commission.

Mr. John MacKay: There is a general presumption against the conversion of woodlands to agricultural and other uses. In considering whether to override this presumption in any particular case, the Forestry Commission takes into account such factors as the Agricultural Department's assessment of the contribution that the proposed conversion would make to the viability and economy of the remainder of the agricultural holding, the views of any other authorities consulted, such as the local authority, and the commission's own assessment of the silvicultural and environmental aspects.

"Broadleaves in Britain"

Mr. Ron Davies asked the Secretary of State for Scotland why the meetings between the Forestry Commission and Nature Conservancy Council to discuss the revision of the "Broadleaves in Britain" review are kept confidential at the commission's request.

Mr. John MacKay: Ideas are still being developed and it would be premature to open them up at this stage to general debate. Draft proposals will be discussed at the Forestry Commission's seminar on broadleaved woodland policy to be held on 8 May.

Area Health Boards

Mr. Ewing asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish in the *Official Report* the membership of the area health boards in Scotland, indicating for each board the names of members who were not reappointed in the recent appointments, together with the names and nominating organisations of the new members appointed to replace them.

Mr. John MacKay: I shall reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Butter

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will seek to introduce a rationing system for the sale in the United Kingdom of butter under the European Economic Community reduced price butter scheme.

Mr. MacGregor: The Commission regulation which authorises the special butter sale requires that member states take measures to ensure as far as possible a balanced distribution of the butter made available under the scheme. To this end we have allocated the butter to suppliers of butter to the packet market on the basis of their past sales and have required that they endeavour to ensure that it is distributed to the wholesalers and retailers broadly on the basis of past trade. We do not intend to introduce a system of rationing at retail level. There is, however, nothing to prevent individual retailers from taking steps to ensure any particular distribution of the butter amongst their customers but this is a matter for retailers to decide.

Pesticides

Mr. Forman asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans his Department has to require the amounts of pesticide used on farms to be included in the June census return.

Mrs. Fenner: Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Bill would provide Ministers with power to require information from users of a pesticide.

Ministers believe that in certain circumstances the benefits in environmental safety may justify the additional burden of keeping records to furnish such information. The Department will be consulting all interested parties later in the year on the appropriate use of this power.

Mr. Forman asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what representations he has received advocating limits on the total amount of pesticide active ingredient and the number of spray applications that may be applied to any one unit in any one season under the Food and Environment Protection Bill [*Lords*].

Mrs. Fenner: I have received representations from both farming and environmental interests advocating such limits.

Mr. Forman asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what plans his Department has to review the efficacy and safety of the pesticide Metasystox.

Mrs. Fenner: The safety position of all pesticides is kept under continuous review. Similarly the efficacy of pesticides approved under the agricultural chemicals approvals scheme, as are Metasystox 55 and Metasystox R, is also kept under review.

Aspartame

Mr. Dykes asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what is his estimate of the current per capita consumption of the intense sweetener Aspartame in all forms of food and drink; and how this figure compares with the consumption estimated by the food additives and contaminants committee in 1982.

Mrs. Fenner: No estimate of present per capita consumption of Aspartame is available. It is used largely for low calorie soft drinks and sweetening tablets. As I explained to my hon. Friend in my reply to him on 23 January 1985, information on the intake of all permitted sweeteners will be collected and reviewed within the next four years.

Foodstuffs

Mr. Teddy Taylor asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will publish a table showing the current levels of export rebate and import levy, respectively, for each category of foodstuff; and if he will publish a separate table showing, where applicable, the current intervention prices for the same foodstuffs, in pound sterling terms in all cases.

Mr. MacGregor: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Import levies and export refunds applicable in the United Kingdom on 15 March 1985

	*Import Levy** *£/t*	*Export refund** *£/t*
Common wheat	40·4	•12·2
Barley	43·2	•24·2
Maize	35·9	0
Rice	332·3	•151·4
Sugar (white)	†282·8	•265·9
Olive oil	457·8	340·3
Butter (82 per cent. fat)	‡1,261·4	723·0
Skimmed milk powder	599·2	471·1
Beef and veal	‖1,430·3	■934·1
Pigmeat	240·0	164·8
Poultrymeat	133·4	75·7
Eggs	145·3	87·3
Sheepmeat	¶—	0

* The rates of levy and export refund vary for different tariff headings. The rates quoted are: beef and veal—carcase; pigmeat—carcase; poultrymeat—70 per cent. chickens; rice—wholly milled long grain; olive oil—virgin lampante; eggs in shell.

Levies and export refunds are shown after deduction of the monetary compensatory amounts where applicable.

† In practice the United Kingdom's imports from third countries are normally covered by the Lomé convention and enter the Community levy-free.

‡ A special lower rate of levy is applicable to imports of butter from New Zealand.

‖ Most imports of beef from third countries are subject to special arrangements allowing entry at reduced levy rates.

¶ Imports of lamb under voluntary restraint arrangements with principal suppliers and related agreements are subject to a reduced charge of 10 per cent. ad valorem. Any imports outside these arrangements are subject to levies which cannot exceed 20 per cent. tariff bound in the GATT.

• Maximum rate of export refunds fixed under the tenders accepted on 14 March (cereals) and 13 March (sugar) for specified volumes.

■ Export refunds vary greatly according to the category of animal, type of meat etc. The figure quoted is for CCT code 0201AIIal (carcases).

Current intervention prices in the United Kingdom

	£/tonne
Common wheat	124
Barley	124
Maize*	124
Rice*	207
Sugar (white)†	365
Olive oil*	1,441
Butter (82 per cent. fat)	1,978
Skimmed milk powder	1,026
Beef and veal‡	1,142
Pigmeat‖	—
Poultrymeat	n/a
Eggs	n/a
Sheepmeat	n/a

* Intervention is not available in the United Kingdom.

† Including storage levy (£26·29/tonne).

‡ Intervention price liveweight. Following the introduction of the carcase classification grid in April 1984, intervention is available on a range of carcase categories at different specified buying-in prices. It is also only available on certain cuts at different times of the year; on 15 March it was available only on hindquarters.

‖ Intervention buying for specified grades may take place between 78 per cent. and 92 per cent. of the basic price which is currently £1,258/tonne. No intervention has taken place in the United Kingdom.

Cormorants

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what is his estimate of the number of cormorants in England; and if their numbers are declining.

Mr. Waldegrave: I have been asked to reply.

The last survey of the cormorant population took place in 1969-70, when it was estimated that the total number of breeding pairs in England was 1,116. There is no firm evidence available at the moment to indicate any change in this level. I understand, however, that the British Trust for Ornithology is currently undertaking a pilot study in preparation for a major survey next year. It is hoped that this may be able to provide reliable information on current population levels.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Mechanical Engineering Products

Mr. Hoyle asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what were the annual figures for total United Kingdom imports by value for each of the mechanical engineering economic development council sectors, in each of the years 1970 to 1984, inclusive, on an overseas trade statistics basis;

(2) what were the annual figures for total United Kingdom exports by value for each of the mechanical and engineering economic development council sectors in each of the years 1970 to 1984, inclusive, on an overseas trade statistics basis.

Mr. Channon: Import and export information on the basis of the precise product coverage of each economic development committee (EDC) could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The following information represents an approximation to the coverage of eight EDCs for mechanical engineering industries. Information on this basis is not available for the years prior to 1978 or for the EDCs for diesel engines, engineering construction, and mechanical handling.

Imports, cif, and Exports, fob

£ million

	1978	*1979*	*1980*	*1981*	*1982*	*1983*	**1984*
EDC:							
Construction equipment and mobile cranes:							
Imports	274	314	283	288	353	405	325
Exports	738	731	844	924	902	714	578
Constructional steelwork							
Imports	33	42	52	53	66	83	78
Exports	291	267	293	275	338	306	207
Mining machinery							
Imports	11	11	16	10	15	18	13
Exports	48	92	100	72	92	78	87
Process plant/pumps+valves							
Imports	793	375	405	606	476	620	357
Exports	663	780	861	853	946	890	637
Textile machinery							
Imports	115	120	104	93	103	117	112
Exports	201	215	242	225	211	176	143
Food, drink and packaging machinery							
Imports	157	182	208	209	258	312	269
Exports	251	278	298	284	313	328	248
Heating, ventilating, air conditioning etc.							
Imports	124	162	163	163	199	229	215
Exports	150	172	175	173	187	192	155
Printing/bookbinding machinery							
Imports	152	183	209	188	212	264	235
Exports	167	182	214	217	236	255	227

* January to September.

DEFENCE

Mr. J. J. Engelbrecht

Mr. Caborn asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether a South African national, Mr. J. J. Engelbrecht has undertaken research at the Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern, since 1979.

Mr. Lee: No.

NATO (West German Border)

Mr. Deakins asked the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration has been given by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to the construction in peacetime of a physical barrier along the West German border with eastern Europe which would be impenetrable by tank assault.

Mr. Stanley: This possibility has not been given detailed consideration in recent times within NATO mainly because it would be intrusive, extremely expensive and, with the conventional and nuclear weapons available to the Warsaw Pact, it would not be impenetrable.

Operation Lionheart

Mr. Cohen asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is the full cost to Britain of Operation Lionheart; and when he proposes to deposit the final report on the exercise in the Library.

Mr. Stanley: Final cost figures are not yet available. Our latest estimate of the total cost to the United Kingdom is about £31 million, part of which would have been incurred in any event. Up-to-date figures will be included in the final report on the exercise, which should be available in the autumn. I shall place a copy in the Library.

South Africa

Mr. Caborn asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide information concerning the attendance of British military attachés at South African military exercises for the years 1979 to 1985 inclusive and give the name of the exercise, the date of the exercise, the venue of the exercise and the names of military attachés attending for each exercise.

Mr. Stanley: British military attachés have attended only one South African military exercise during the period 1979 to 1985 inclusive. This was Exercise Thunder Chariot, held in September 1984 at Lohatla in northern Cape Province. The British defence attaché (Colonel D. W. Hanson, OBE) and the naval air attaché (Group Captain G. L. Gridley, OBE, RAF) attended for one day only, along with attachés from other countries, as observers.

Type 23 Frigates

Sir David Price asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that the third type 23 order will be put out to full competitive tender and that the results of that exercise will be the principal factor determining the award of that order.

Mr. Lee: Yes.

Line Managers (Capital Assets)

Mr. Wainwright asked the Secretary of State for Defence what accounting developments are being made in his Department to give line managers better information about the cost and condition of the capital assets they are managing.

Mr. Butler: The Department has an extensive system of management accounts which cover some 70 per cent. of the defence budget, excluding procurement. These accounts include, besides running costs, the capital-related costs of activities. The condition of capital assets such as military equipment, plant and buildings is regularly monitored. Starting on 1 April next we are introducing a new system of executive responsibility budgets on an extensive scale within the support field. These arrangements, which are primarily aimed at promoting greater efficiency and economy, will help to encourage more extensive use of fixed asset registers and records of asset utilisation for management purposes. Managers will have an incentive to identify assets which can be better utilised or alternatively released for disposal.

Home Service Force

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he has any plans to expand the Home Service Force.

Mr. Lee: We are currently proceeding with plans to expand the Home Service Force to a strength of 5,000, announced to the House on 25 July 1984. We shall in due course consider the scope for further expansion of the Home Service Force in the longer term.

Exercise Brave Defender

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence what are the terms of exercise Brave Defender.

Mr. Stanley: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 21 December 1984, at column 375.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence where exercise Brave Defender will take place.

Mr. Stanley: The exercise will take place at a variety of locations throughout Great Britain. Most exercise activity will take place on MOD property, although some use may be made of private land.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the number, and specify the locations, of damage control centres which will be established to assess the compensation claims from the public arising out of operation Brave Defender.

Mr. Stanley: It is not anticipated that the exercise will cause significant damage to private property. Any claims for compensation which do arise will be considered by the Ministry of Defence in the normal manner.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence what roles the following groups will play in exercise Brave Defender; the 5th Infantry Brigade, the 5th Airborne Brigade, the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve and the Home Service Force.

Mr. Stanley: The forces referred to will exercise their home defence roles for the protection of vital installations in the UK.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Defence which key points are to be defended as part of exercise Brave Defender.

Mr. Stanley: A representative selection of installations will be chosen as key points for exercise purposes. A final list has yet to be drawn up. The installations used in the exercise will not necessarily be actual key points, information about which is classified.

Civilian Pay Records Office, Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on his proposals for the future of the civilian pay records office in Portsmouth; if he will give an indication of the future job prospects for the 120 employees who work there; what are the Government's intended actions with regard to the recommendations contained in Coopers and Lybrand's internal audit of the Department of Directors General accounts; and if the Government have any long term proposals for the privatisation of activities and work carried out at the civilian pay records office in Portsmouth.

Mr. Butler: The plans announced in 1982 to centralise at CPRO Portsmouth the calculation of pay for MOD industrials employed in southern England continue. The transfer of work to Portsmouth should be completed by 1987. During this period the number of staff employed in the CPRO will increase.

The Secretary of State for Defence has recently approved a number of further studies following the efficiency audit of the defence accounts organisation carried out last year by Coopers and Lybrand Associates.

One of these will be to examine the MOD pay systems to determine the feasibility of introducing more efficient procedures.

The Government have no proposals for the privatisation of activities and work carried out at the CPRO in Portsmouth.

Royal Artillery Guided Weapons Range, Hebrides

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the types of missile currently fired from or over the Royal Artillery guided weapons range, Hebrides; and if there are any plans in existence to introduce new missiles to the range.

Mr. Lee: The following weapons were fired at the Royal Artillery range, Hebrides during 1984: Rapier, Blowpipe, Javelin, Lance (inert telemetry warhead), Sub Harpoon, Sea Eagle, Sea Dart and Sky Flash. Other missiles, as they come into service, may be fired at the range in future.

Practice Bombing Runs

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish figures to show the number of practice bombing runs carried out in each year since 1981 at the air-to-ground weapons ranges at Rosehearty, Tain and Cape Wrath; and if he will provide a breakdown of these figures into Royal Air Force, United States Air Force, other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation air forces and non-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation air forces.

Mr. Lee: I shall answer shortly.

NATO Fuel Stocks

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the fuel stocks held in storage at North Atlantic Treaty Organisation petroleum, oil and lubricants depots in Scotland is United States of America national war reserve stock.

Mr. Lee: This information is classified.

Royal Marine Units (Home Defence)

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list any Royal Marines units which are allocated to a home defence role.

Mr. Lee: No Royal Marines units are entirely dedicated to a home defence role but elements of Commando training centre Royal Marines, Royal Marines Poole, Royal Marines Deal, Comacchio Group Royal Marines, and other minor units, augmented by reserves, would be allocated to this task.

US Marine Corps (Materials and Supplies)

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements have been made for the pre-positioning of military material and supplies for the United States Marine Corps in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Lee: I shall answer shortly.

British Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Defence if plans exist for any expansion of *(a)* shore facilities and *(b)* sea area of the British underwater test and evaluation centre at Kyle of Lochalsh.

Mr. Lee: There is a requirement for additional storage facilities and a slipway at the shore site of the British underwater test and evaluation centre, and consideration is being given to acquiring a small site immediately adjacent to the existing shore facility. In assessing the adequacy of the BUTEC facility to its role of supporting the Navy's torpedo procurement programme, the possibility of the need arising for additional shore facilities at some stage in the future can never be ruled out. An outer border between ½ and 1 mile will be added to the existing sea area in which certain types of fishing will be prohibited, and this will be covered by the byelaws which come into effect on 25 March. The range itself is not being extended, nor are there any plans to do so. I refer the right hon. Gentleman to my right hon. Friend, the Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces' letter to him of 3 January 1984 which detailed the reasons for the introduction of an outer border.

United States Navy Mobile Mine Assembly Group

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is the function of the United States navy mobile mine assembly group detachments at Glen Douglas and Machrihanish.

Mr. Lee: To maintain and assemble conventional mines for NATO use.

Airfields (Emergency Wartime Use)

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Defence which airfields in the United Kingdom have been designated for emergency wartime use by aircraft from United States Navy aircraft carriers.

Mr. Stanley: Such details of wartime reinforcement planning are classified.

Radioactive Waste

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Secretary of State for Defence what checks are made by his Department over the periodic discharge of radioactive waste at sea by United States Navy submarine depot ships based at the Holy Loch.

Mr. Stanley: No such checks are made. However, I understand that the discharges at sea by the USN depot ship the USS Hunley are of low level radioactive water, take place more than 12 miles from the shore and are strictly controlled.

United States Air Force and Navy Hospitals

Mrs. Clwyd asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether British or United States Services are responsible for security at United States air force and navy hospitals in the United Kingdom in wartime.

Mr. Stanley: I shall answer shortly.

United States Military Hospitals

Mrs. Clwyd asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether any United States National Guards units are earmarked to provide security at United States military hospitals in Britain in wartime.

Mr. Stanley: I shall answer shortly.

United States National Guard (Exercises)

Mrs. Clwyd asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether any medical units of the United States National Guard have been exercised at any United States military hospitals in Britain.

Mr. Lee: No.

Royal Dockyards

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the commercial firms approached by Mr. Peter Levene about their possible interest in an agency management scheme for the royal dockyards are foreign-owned.

Mr. Lee: The companies approached by Mr. Levene were all established firms in the United Kingdom. Some of them, however, as large and successful companies, have international links. The Government accept the need for appropriate safeguards against foreign control should proposals involving commercial management of the royal dockyards be developed.

Private Health Insurance

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is the cost to his Department of distributing information and material on private health insurance to his Department's employees.

Mr. Butler: Information was last distributed in 1983 using the Department's existing distribution organisation. It is not possible separately to identify the cost. At one Ministry of Defence establishment a small amount of overtime was wrongly incurred in organising internal distribution. The cost amounted to approximately £100.

RAF Molesworth

Mrs. Clwyd asked the Secretary of State for Defence why permission has been refused for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to use fields surrounding RAF Molesworth for the forthcoming Easter demonstration.

Mr. Lee: I shall answer shortly.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 19 March 1985

ENVIRONMENT

Rate Support Grant

Mr. Andrew F. Bennett asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list in the *Official Report* (i) for each county council and (ii) for each district council in England and Wales *(a)* the total payments made in rate support grant for the year 1974-75, *(b)* an estimate of the payments shown in *(a)* above at present day prices and *(c)* the total payments made in rate support grant for the year 1984-85.

Mr. Waldegrave: This information is given in the following table. The figures in columns 2 and 3 are not comparable, for the following reasons:

(i) Rate support grant in 1974-75 comprised needs, resources and domestic elements. Needs element was paid to non-metropolitan county councils, metropolitan district councils and London borough councils. Resources element was paid to qualifying non-metropolitan district councils, metropolitan district councils and London borough councils. No payments were made to precepting authorities in London or to the metropolitan county councils.

(ii) The figures for 1984-85 comprise block grant, after holdback, and domestic rate relief grant. Block grant is payable to all local authorities.

Receipts and payments under the appropriate London rate equalisation scheme are not included.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales has been responsible for payments of rate support grant to local authorities in Wales since 1981-82.

£ million

	RSG payment for 1974-75	*At 1984-85 price base using GDP deflator*	*RSG payment for 1984-85*
Avon	48·3	153·5	102·8
Bedfordshire	25·7	81·8	60·1
Berkshire	41·1	130·8	55·9
Buckinghamshire	28·7	91·5	57·5
Cambridgeshire	27·8	88·3	74·7
Cheshire	46·7	148·4	100·6
Cleveland	37·3	118·7	92·0
Cornwall	18·8	59·8	73·3
Cumbria	32·5	103·3	91·4
Derbyshire	45·0	143·1	132·8
Devon	44·3	141·0	144·5
Dorset	25·3	80·6	61·5
Durham	32·2	102·3	120·5
East Sussex	29·7	94·4	61·8
Essex	81·2	258·3	144·1
Gloucestershire	24·5	77·8	70·4
Hampshire	73·9	234·9	186·8
Hereford and Worcester	30·4	96·7	88·6
Hertfordshire	61·8	196·6	70·5
Humberside	46·6	148·2	165·8
Isle of Wight	4·7	15·0	20·1
Kent	81·8	260·2	219·2
Lancashire	72·3	229·9	279·0
Leicestershire	43·7	138·9	136·2
Lincolnshire	28·5	90·7	96·9
Norfolk	31·5	100·2	92·6
Northamptonshire	24·5	77·9	84·9
Northumberland	19·5	62·2	50·2
North Yorkshire	39·8	126·5	108·2
Nottinghamshire	52·5	166·9	167·7
Oxfordshire	27·5	87·4	49·8
Salop	19·1	60·8	67·3
Somerset	19·4	61·8	65·5
Staffordshire	51·5	163·7	158·4
Suffolk	26·2	83·4	78·6
Surrey	52·7	167·6	49·0
Warwickshire	24·0	76·3	61·9
West Sussex	29·1	92·4	59·0
Wiltshire	28·3	90·1	87·4
Clywd	19·9	63·3	•
Dyfed	22·2	70·5	•
Gwent	24·8	78·9	•
Gwynedd	15·4	49·0	•
Mid Glamorgan	28·8	91·5	•
Powys	11·0	35·0	•
South Glamorgan	22·7	72·2	•
West Glamorgan	19·4	61·8	•
Greater Manchester	0·0	0·0	102·6
Merseyside	0·0	0·0	62·5
South Yorkshire	0·0	0·0	62·3
Tyne and Wear	0·0	0·0	75·8
West Midlands	0·0	0·0	65·8
West Yorkshire	0·0	0·0	103·0
Isles of Scilly	0·3	0·9	0·7
Greater Manchester			
Bolton	26·0	82·7	57·9
Bury	16·0	50·8	33·0
Manchester	58·4	185·6	96·2
Oldham	22·7	72·2	54·7
Rochdale	22·3	70·9	51·2
Salford	27·5	87·4	57·0
Stockport	25·0	79·6	43·4
Tameside	22·5	71·6	48·1
Trafford	14·8	47·1	24·5
Wigan	31·0	98·8	63·9
Merseyside			
Knowsley	22·1	70·4	39·7
Liverpool	65·6	208·8	118·3
St. Helens	17·9	57·0	36·8
Sefton	27·9	88·9	48·5
Wirral	33·6	107·0	61·7
South Yorkshire			
Barnsley	25·0	79·5	49·8
Doncaster	30·6	97·2	60·3
Rotherham	26·4	84·1	56·1
Sheffield	52·5	166·8	89·8
Tyne and Wear			
Gateshead	24·1	76·6	44·3
Newcastle upon Tyne	30·2	96·0	38·4
North Tyneside	23·0	73·1	39·8
South Tyneside	21·2	67·3	39·5
Sunderland	33·9	107·9	61·8
West Midlands			
Birmingham	91·4	290·7	195·0
Coventry	30·2	96·1	61·1
Dudley	20·4	64·9	39·4

	RSG payment for 1974-75	*At 1984-85 price base using GDP deflator*	*RSG payment for 1984-85*
Sandwell	21·5	68·4	54·3
Solihull	15·8	50·2	30·2
Walsall	20·7	65·7	47·4
Wolverhampton	19·7	62·7	48·1
West Yorkshire			
Bradford	53·2	169·2	114·1
Calderdale	21·4	67·9	44·9
Kirklees	40·4	128·6	91·2
Leeds	68·8	219·0	125·0
Wakefield	32·6	103·6	57·6
City of London	0·4	1·4	0·6
Camden	21·4	68·2	5·3
Greenwich	18·5	59·0	24·9
Hackney	22·3	71·0	44·7
Hammersmith and Fulham	18·0	57·3	33·8
Islington	22·0	70·0	3·9
Kensington and Chelsea	19·3	61·3	14·4
Lambeth	29·2	93·0	37·3
Lewisham	27·5	87·3	43·0
Southwark	26·8	85·3	17·8
Tower Hamlets	19·1	60·7	21·8
Wandsworth	28·9	91·9	49·9
Westminster	24·0	76·4	14·1
Greater London Council	0·0	0·0	0·0
Inner London Education Authority	0·0	0·0	0·0
Metropolitan Police	0·0	0·0	137·8
Barking and Dagenham	12·8	40·8	26·7
Barnet	21·6	68·7	38·9
Bexley	17·1	54·5	46·6
Brent	21·8	69·2	55·4
Bromley	20·3	64·5	47·8
Croydon	23·2	73·7	48·6
Ealing	20·9	66·5	59·0
Enfield	17·4	55·2	45·0
Haringey	20·8	66·2	54·1
Harrow	13·7	43·6	33·9
Havering	18·3	58·3	45·9
Hillingdon	15·6	49·6	22·7
Hounslow	14·9	47·5	18·4
Kingston-upon-Thames	9·6	30·6	18·4
Merton	12·4	39·4	29·1
Newham	20·0	63·6	75·8
Redbridge	15·5	49·2	42·1
Richmond-upon-Thames	10·7	34·0	20·2
Sutton	10·8	34·3	28·6
Waltham Forest	18·2	57·9	65·1
Avon			
Bath	2·8	9·0	3·4
Bristol	10·0	31·7	16·3
Kingswood	3·5	11·2	2·9
Northavon	3·3	10·6	2·9
Wansdyke	2·7	8·7	2·0
Woodspring	4·9	15·5	6·0
Bedfordshire			
North Bedfordshire	2·7	8·7	3·9
Luton	1·6	5·2	5·4
Mid Bedfordshire	3·5	11·1	2·3
South Bedfordshire	1·0	3·1	2·3
Berkshire			
Bracknell	1·0	3·2	2·5
Newbury	2·0	6·4	3·6
Reading	1·2	3·7	3·8
Slough	0·9	3·0	3·0
Windsor and Maidenhead	1·5	4·8	3·9
Wokingham	2·7	8·7	3·4
Buckinghamshire			
Aylesbury Vale	2·3	7·2	3·3
Beaconsfield	1·0	3·0	1·6
Chiltern	1·4	4·6	2·5
Milton Keynes	1·0	3·2	3·3
Wycombe	1·7	5·5	4·0
Cambridgeshire			
Cambridge	1·0	3·3	3·2
East Cambridgeshire	2·3	7·3	1·4
Fenland	2·8	8·9	2·0
Huntingdon	3·8	12·1	3·3
Peterborough	2·9	9·2	4·1
South Cambridgeshire	2·8	8·8	2·8
Cheshire			
Chester	2·5	7·8	3·5
Congleton	2·6	8·2	2·3
Crewe and Nantwich	4·0	12·7	3·8
Ellesmere and Neston	0·7	2·2	1·9
Halton	2·1	6·7	3·9
Macclesfield	3·9	12·4	4·9
Vale Royal	3·2	10·1	3·2
Warrington	5·6	17·9	5·1
Cleveland			
Hartlepool	4·3	13·7	4·7
Langbaurgh	2·9	9·1	4·4
Middlesbrough	8·9	28·2	9·9
Stockton-on-Tees	4·4	13·9	5·2
Cornwall			
Caradon	2·4	7·6	2·4
Carrick	2·5	7·8	2·9
Kerrier	3·3	10·6	2·7
North Cornwall	2·2	6·9	2·5
Penwith	1·9	6·0	2·2
Restormel	2·1	6·8	2·4
Cumbria			
Allerdale	4·2	13·4	4·0
Barrow-in-Furness	3·6	11·4	3·3
Carlisle	3·6	11·4	4·0
Copeland	3·2	10·2	2·8
Eden	1·7	5·5	1·3
South Lakeland	3·3	10·5	3·8
Derbyshire			
Amber Valley	4·6	14·6	3·7
Bolsover	3·9	12·5	2·6
Chesterfield	3·5	11·2	3·6
Derby	5·7	18·2	8·4
Erewash	3·8	11·9	3·8
High Peak	3·1	9·9	2·7

	RSG payment for 1974-75	*At 1984-85 price base using GDP deflator*	*RSG payment for 1984-85*
North East Derbyshire	4·5	14·5	3·4
South Derbyshire	1·5	4·9	1·5
West Derbyshire	2·8	8·8	2·5
Devon			
East Devon	3·4	10·8	4·0
Exeter	2·0	6·4	3·8
North Devon	2·6	8·3	2·7
Plymouth	9·0	28·7	9·9
South Hams	2·1	6·7	2·8
Teignbridge	3·2	10·1	3·7
Mid Devon	2·3	7·2	1·9
Torbay	1·7	5·3	4·6
Torridge	2·2	6·9	2·1
West Devon	1·6	5·1	1·4
Dorset			
Bournemouth	1·6	5·1	6·9
Christchurch	0·4	1·4	1·6
North Dorset	1·9	6·0	1·4
Poole	1·7	5·4	4·4
Purbeck	0·9	2·8	1·2
West Dorset	3·0	9·5	2·7
Weymouth and Portland	2·2	6·9	2·5
Wimborne	1·6	5·1	2·4
Durham			
Chester le Street	2·9	9·1	2·3
Darlington	3·4	10·9	3·9
Derwentside	4·8	15·2	4·4
Durham	4·7	14·8	3·3
Easington	6·8	21·5	4·9
Sedgefield	5·1	16·2	4·8
Teesdale	1·1	3·7	0·8
Wear Valley	4·0	12·8	3·2
East Sussex			
Brighton	2·9	9·1	7·9
Eastbourne	0·9	2·8	3·7
Hastings	2·3	7·5	4·0
Hove	1·2	3·8	5·1
Lewes	1·8	5·8	3·0
Rother	1·8	5·9	3·5
Wealden	3·9	12·4	4·0
Essex			
Basildon	2·1	6·8	2·7
Braintree	2·6	8·2	3·2
Brentwood	1·0	3·1	2·0
Castle Point	2·3	7·3	3·0
Chelmsford	1·7	5·3	4·1
Colchester	3·6	11·3	4·2
Epping Forest	1·8	5·7	3·5
Harlow	0·7	2·3	1·3
Maldon	0·9	2·8	1·3
Rochford	1·8	5·8	2·5
Southend on Sea	1·9	6·2	7·5
Tendring	3·0	9·5	5·1
Thurrock	1·3	4·1	2·1
Uttlesford	1·3	4·1	1·9
Gloucestershire			
Cheltenham	1·2	3·8	3·3
Cotswold	2·1	6·7	2·3
Forest of Dean	3·3	10·6	2·3
Gloucester	2·3	7·2	3·0
Stroud	3·4	10·7	3·0
Tewkesbury	2·3	7·2	1·9
Hampshire			
Basingstoke and Deane	2·6	8·4	3·7
East Hampshire	2·9	9·4	3·2
Eastleigh	2·2	6·9	2·5
Fareham	2·8	9·0	2·8
Gosport	3·0	9·7	3·0
Hart	2·2	7·1	2·2
Havant	3·6	11·4	4·4
New Forest	1·3	5·7	4·6
Portsmouth	6·1	19·2	10·1
Rushmoor	1·9	6·0	3·1
Southampton	4·5	14·3	8·6
Test Valley	2·8	9·0	2·5
Winchester	2·4	7·5	2·8
Hereford and Worcester			
Bromsgrove	2·2	6·9	2·3
Hereford	1·2	3·8	1·6
Leominster	1·7	5·4	1·3
Malvern Hills	3·4	10·9	2·8
Redditch	0·7	2·1	1·9
South Herefordshire	2·3	7·2	1·4
Worcester	0·7	2·4	2·5
Wychavon	2·5	7·8	2·8
Wyre Forest	2·0	6·3	3·0
Hertfordshire			
Broxbourne	1·6	4·9	2·6
Dacorum	1·3	4·3	4·1
East Hertfordshire	2·4	7·6	3·3
Hertsmere	1·1	3·4	2·4
North Hertfordshire	1·1	3·5	3·1
St. Albans	1·4	4·5	3·6
Stevenage	0·7	2·3	1·8
Three Rivers	1·1	3·6	2·5
Watford	0·8	2·6	2·7
Welwyn Hatfield	1·1	3·4	2·0
Humberside			
Beverley	3·7	11·9	3·6
Boothferry	2·7	8·6	2·8
Cleethorpes	2·0	6·3	2·8
Glanford	1·7	5·3	2·4
Great Grimsby	3·4	10·7	4·1
Holderness	1·6	5·2	1·6
Kingston-upon-Hull	13·0	41·3	15·7
North Wolds	3·3	10·4	3·3
Scunthorpe	0·5	1·5	2·9
Isle of Wight			
Medina	2·5	8·0	2·4
South Wight	1·6	5·1	1·9
Kent			
Ashford	2·5	7·9	3·1
Canterbury	3·7	11·9	5·0
Dartford	2·7	8·7	3·3
Dover	4·2	13·3	4·1
Gillingham	3·1	9·8	3·0
Gravesham	2·6	8·3	3·5
Maidstone	4·1	13·1	4·2
Medway	2·9	9·1	4·9
Sevenoaks	3·8	12·1	3·7

	RSG payment for 1974-75	*At 1984-85 price base using GDP deflator*	*RSG payment for 1984-85*
Shepway	2·4	7·6	3·7
Swale	3·8	12·0	3·8
Thanet	4·0	12·7	6·5
Tonbridge and Malling	2·7	8·4	2·9
Tunbridge Wells	3·2	10·1	3·4
Lancashire			
Blackburn	7·2	22·8	9·6
Blackpool	4·1	12·9	7·8
Burnley	4·9	15·7	5·5
Chorley	3·6	11·3	3·3
Fylde	2·1	6·8	2·7
Hyndburn	4·0	12·7	3·8
Lancaster	5·1	16·2	5·5
Pendle	4·6	14·6	4·4
Preston	4·6	14·6	6·1
Ribble Valley	2·3	7·2	1·8
Rossendale	3·7	11·8	3·2
South Ribble	3·7	11·9	3·0
West Lancashire	3·7	11·7	3·7
Wyre	3·9	12·3	4·5
Leicestershire			
Blaby	3·1	9·8	2·1
Charnwood	3·4	10·8	3·7
Harborough	2·0	6·4	1·7
Hinckley and Bosworth	2·6	8·4	2·2
Leicester	6·3	20·2	12·7
Melton	1·2	4·0	1·3
North West Leicester	2·5	8·0	2·2
Oadby and Wigston	1·6	5·1	1·5
Rutland	1·1	3·4	0·9
Lincolnshire			
Boston	1·8	5·6	2·1
East Lindsey	4·0	12·6	3·5
Lincoln	2·7	8·5	3·1
North Kesteven	3·4	10·9	2·4
South Holland	2·6	8·3	2·5
South Kesteven	3·4	10·7	3·2
West Lindsey	3·5	11·2	2·4
Norfolk			
Breckland	3·2	10·2	2·8
Broadland	4·0	12·6	2·8
Great Yarmouth	2·2	7·0	3·0
North Norfolk	2·7	8·4	3·3
Norwich	1·0	3·0	4·1
South Norfolk	3·6	11·6	2·8
West Norfolk	3·9	12·6	4·0
Northamptonshire			
Corby	0·7	2·2	1·9
Daventry	1·2	3·9	1·4
East Northampton	2·4	7·6	1·8
Kettering	2·7	8·6	2·3
Northampton	3·5	11·1	6·0
South Northampton	2·4	7·7	1·8
Wellingborough	1·9	5·9	2·2
Northumberland			
Alnwick	1·5	4·6	1·3
Berwick-upon-Tweed	1·3	4·0	1·0
Blyth Valley	3·3	10·6	3·8
Castle Morpeth	2·1	6·7	1·5
Tynedale	2·6	8·1	1·9
Wansbeck	2·5	7·9	2·3
North Yorkshire			
Craven	1·9	6·1	1·7
Hambleton	3·0	9·5	2·1
Harrogate	4·4	14·1	5·3
Richmondshire	1·9	6·0	1·6
Ryedale	3·6	11·5	2·6
Scarborough	4·1	13·1	4·4
Selby	2·1	6·7	1·4
York	4·1	13·1	4·1
Nottinghamshire			
Ashfield	5·1	16·3	3·7
Bassetlaw	2·6	8·1	1·8
Broxtowe	3·6	11·5	3·5
Gedling	4·2	13·5	3·7
Mansfield	4·5	14·4	4·9
Newark	4·5	14·3	3·3
Nottingham	6·8	21·5	13·1
Rushcliffe	2·7	8·5	2·4
Oxfordshire			
Cherwell	2·5	8·1	2·9
Oxford	1·0	3·2	4·6
South Oxfordshire	4·2	13·3	3·5
Vale of White Horse	2·4	7·7	2·2
West Oxfordshire	2·9	9·3	2·5
Salop			
Bridgnorth	1·8	5·7	1·4
North Shropshire	2·2	6·9	1·8
Oswestry	1·5	4·9	1·0
Shrewsbury and Atcham	2·3	7·3	2·6
South Shropshire	1·7	5·3	1·4
The Wrekin	3·6	11·4	4·8
Somerset			
Mendip	3·0	9·5	2·6
Sedgemoor	2·9	9·2	3·0
Taunton Deane	2·9	9·3	3·0
West Somerset	0·6	2·0	0·9
Yeovil	4·6	14·7	3·9
Staffordshire			
Cannock Chase	2·8	9·1	2·6
East Staffordshire	2·6	8·2	3·8
Lichfield	2·5	7·8	2·3
Newcastle under Lyme	5·1	16·1	4·2
South Staffordshire	2·9	9·1	2·6
Stafford	3·0	9·6	3·3
Staffs. Moorlands	3·8	12·0	2·9
Stoke-on-Trent	9·9	31·5	9·0
Tamworth	1·5	4·9	2·4
Suffolk			
Babergh	2·3	7·4	2·4
Forest Heath	1·6	5·2	2·0
Ipswich	2·0	6·5	4·5
Mid Suffolk	2·4	7·7	2·2
St. Edmundsbury	2·1	6·6	2·5

	RSG payment for 1974-75	*At 1984-85 price base using GDP deflator*	*RSG payment for 1984-85*
Suffolk Coastal	3·1	9·9	3·1
Waveney	3·4	10·8	4·2
Surrey			
Elmbridge	1·7	5·4	2·8
Epsom and Ewell	1·2	3·7	2·4
Guildford	1·4	4·6	3·0
Mole Valley	1·4	4·5	2·0
Reigate and Banstead	2·1	6·6	3·0
Runnymede	1·4	4·5	1·8
Spelthorne	1·1	3·4	1·7
Surrey Heath	0·9	2·8	1·9
Tandridge	2·5	7·9	2·1
Waverley	2·2	6·9	3·2
Woking	1·1	3·6	3·1
Warwickshire			
North Warwickshire	1·3	4·3	1·7
Nuneaton	4·3	13·7	4·4
Rugby	2·6	8·3	2·7
Stratford-on-Avon	2·1	6·8	3·0
Warwick	2·0	6·3	3·5
West Sussex			
Adur	1·3	4·1	1·9
Arun	2·5	7·9	5·3
Chichester	2·5	7·9	3·7
Crawley	0·6	1·8	1·1
Horsham	2·5	7·8	3·2
Mid Sussex	2·5	8·8	3·6
Worthing	1·7	5·3	4·6
Wiltshire			
Kennet	2·9	9·3	2·0
North Wiltshire	4·3	13·6	2·9
Salisbury	3·3	10·5	3·0
Thamesdown	5·0	16·1	4·3
West Wiltshire	3·2	10·1	2·7
Clwyd			
Alyn and Deeside	2·6	8·3	*
Colwyn	2·6	8·4	*
Delyn	3·7	11·9	*
Glyndwr	2·4	7·7	*
Rhuddlan	2·6	8·2	*
Wrexham Maelor	6·4	20·2	*
Dyfed			
Carmarthen	3·5	11·1	*
Ceredigion	3·5	11·3	*
Dinefwr	2·5	8·1	*
Llanelli	4·8	15·3	*
Preseli	3·6	11·3	*
South Pembrokeshire	0·6	2·0	*
Gwent			
Blaenau Gwent	6·5	20·7	*
Islwyn	5·3	17·0	*
Monmouth	4·0	12·9	*
Newport	3·8	12·2	*
Torfaen	5·9	18·6	*
Gwynedd			
Aberconwy	2·9	9·3	*
Arfon	3·8	12·0	*
Dwyfor	1·5	4·9	*
Meirionnydd	1·7	5·3	*
Ynys Mon	3·7	11·8	*
Mid Glamorgan			
Cynon Valley	5·6	18·0	*
Merthyr Tydfil	5·1	16·1	*
Ogwr	9·1	29·0	*
Rhondda	8·4	26·8	*
Rhymney Valley	9·2	29·1	*
Taff Ely	5·9	18·7	*
Powys			
Brecknock	2·5	7·9	*
Montgomery	2·8	9·0	*
Radnor	1·0	3·1	*
South Glamorgan			
Cardiff	11·6	36·8	*
Vale of Glamorgan	5·9	18·9	*
West Glamorgan			
Afan	1·2	3·7	*
Lliw Valley	4·0	12·8	*
Neath	3·6	11·3	*
Swansea	11·9	38·0	*

Ancient Monuments

Mr. Cartwright asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what research has been conducted into the effects of SO_2 and NO_x emissions on ancient monuments; and for how long the Central Electricity Generating Board has been involved in such research.

Mr. Waldegrave: The Building Research Establishment and Imperial college, London have been carrying out joint research for several years into the deterioration of the fabric of buildings of notable historic importance, specifically St. Paul's and Wells cathedrals. Damage to stone in regions with higher pollution levels is also being monitored; Bolsover abbey has been selected for this purpose. My Department has recently set up a group of experts to review the impact of acid deposition on building and construction materials, including historic buildings and cultural monuments; the CEGB is represented in this group. I understand that the CEGB and the Cathedrals Advisory Commission recently announced a collaborative investigation into the nature and causes of the corrosion of the stonework of ancient buildings through air pollution.

Wild Birds (Conservation)

Dr. Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish the text of the reasoned opinion delivered by the European Commission concerning the alleged failure of the United Kingdom to incorporate correctly the Council directive of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (79/409) as notified in the *Bulletin* of the European Communities No. 10 1984 page 89; and if he will publish his response to this reasoned opinion.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: On 23 February 1984 the European Commission questioned British compliance with the provisions of the directive. It raised three points. The Government were able to satisfy them on two of these. The third related to Northern Ireland. Orders in Council to implement the directive in Northern Ireland were laid before Parliament on 22 November 1984, and approved by the House of Commons on 16 January 1985, the House of Lords on 17 February 1985, and the Privy Council on 14 February 1985. They will become effective on 14 April 1985.

I have placed in the Library a copy of the reasoned opinion forwarded to Her Majesty's Government on 16 October 1984.

Radioactive Waste

Mr. Frank Cook asked the Secretary of State for the Environment how many waste disposal facilities in the United Kingdom are licensed by his Department to handle radioactive waste.

Mr. Waldegrave: There are 26 sites in England which are permitted to receive low-level radioactive waste for controlled burial as a result of authorisations issued by my Department under the Radioactive Substances Act 1960. My Department is not responsible for authorising disposals elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Frank Cook asked the Secretary of State for the Environment how much low-level radioactive waste is disposed of each year at United Kingdom sites other than Drigg in Cumbria.

Mr. Waldegrave: Authorisations issued under the Radioactive Substances Act 1960 require persons disposing of radioactive waste to keep records of the amounts disposed of. In the case of low-level solid wastes this information is not brought together centrally, and it would be disproportionately expensive to collect.

Mr. Frank Cook asked the Secretary of State for the Environment how radioactive wastes arising from the commercial operations of Amersham International are disposed of; and in what quantities.

Mr. Waldegrave: The routes by which Amersham International plc is permitted to dispose of radioactive wastes, and information about the quantities disposed of, are given in additional tables on radioactivity of the Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics (No. 6 1983), copies of which are in the Library. These cover the period 1977 to 1982 inclusive. Digest No. 7, covering 1983, will be published shortly and I shall arrange for copies to be similarly available.

Holiday Projects

Mr. Bright asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what was the number and total value of holiday projects approved under traditional urban programme circular 25; and what type of schemes were supported.

Mr. Kenneth Baker: One hundred and sixty-two projects worth £400,000 have been approved sponsored by 79 local authorities which have extensively deprived urban areas but do not qualify for partnership or programme status. Many of the projects are block approvals covering a number of small schemes. A wide range of activities will be supported including play schemes, adventure holidays, drama, dance and music projects, special sports activities, educational trips and visits and special language classes. As usual priority has been given to schemes run by voluntary groups and those which help handicapped children and disadvantaged ethnic minority groups. These holiday projects are additional to the round-the-year support given under the traditional urban programme to projects for children.

Vehicle Exhaust Emission Control

Mr. Alton asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on Her Majesty's Government's policy regarding the European Commission's recent proposals for vehicle exhaust emission control.

Mr. Waldegrave: The Government are keen to see vehicle emissions reduced as far as possible, having due regard for costs, and we are taking a positive approach in Community negotiations.

Alternative technologies, including the lean-burn engine, now being developed promise far greater fuel efficiency and robustness than the three-way catalyst technology used in the USA and favoured by some in Europe. These alternative technologies give almost the same reductions in emissions on a new car at less than half the cost of the three-way catalyst; over the whole life of a car they offer the prospect of better reductions, together with improved economy. Because of these implications for Community resources, the Government consider that new limit values should both afford significant environmental improvements and also enable the development of the alternative technologies to continue. The Council of Environment Ministers considered this issue on 7 March, and will return to it on 20 March, when I very much hope that it will be possible to reach agreement.

Social Services Authorities

Ms. Harman asked the Secretary of State for the Environment which social services authorities are in penalty in 1985-86.

Mr. Waldegrave: It is not possible to tell until budgeted expenditure returns have been received from all local authorities.

Rent Arrears

Mr. Andrew F. Bennett asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what information is available on the level of rent arrears over the last five years.

Sir George Young: Local authority rent arrears in England and Wales for the five years ending on 31 March 1984 amounted to:

	Gross collectable rent	*Gross rent arrears*	*Arrears as a percentage of collectable rent*
	£ thousand	*£ thousand*	*Percentage*
31 March 1980	1,944,506	73,707	3·8
31 March 1981	2,266,718	99,779	4·4
31 March 1982	3,135,744	138,667	4·4
31 March 1983	3,544,153	176,428	5·0
31 March 1984	3,485,388	187,931	5·4

Information about rent arrears owed to housing associations and to private sector landlords is not available.

Council House Sales

Mr. Heddle asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the number of sales completed under the right to buy or voluntary procedures for each year since 1979 to the latest available date by *(a)* the Lichfield district council, *(b)* the Cannock Chase district council and *(c)* the Stafford borough council.

Sir George Young: The authorities reported the following numbers of sales:

Dwellings sold: Right to buy and voluntary

	Cannock Chase	*Lichfield*	*Stafford*
1979-80	0	n/a	70
1980-81	0	35	246
1981-82	201	115	221
1982-83	957	*107	327
1983-84	362	n/a	226
April-December 1984	116	125	149

* April to December 1982 only.
n/a = not available.

Royal Docks (Enterprise Zone)

Mr. Heddle asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he has any plans to declare royal docks an enterprise zone.

Sir George Young: My right hon. Friend does not intend to designate any further enterprise zones at present.

"Mortgage Repayment Difficulties"

Mr. Heddle asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will make a statement on the conclusions of the Building Societies Association report, "Mortgage Repayment Difficulties," a copy of which has been sent to him, in so far as they relate to his responsibilities.

Mr. Gow: The report from the Building Societies Association puts the issue of mortgage repayment difficulties into proportion. It shows that over 99 per cent. of building societies' borrowers are able to maintain their mortgage payments, and that the single most important cause of arrears is matrimonial problems. For those who are in difficulties, the report suggests how societies can help. I am grateful to the association for publishing its findings.

Extremely Low Frequency Communications

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for the Environment whether he will commission a study into the effects of extremely low frequency communications on the environment.

Mr Waldegrave: I have no present plans to do so. I understand that extensive research in the United States has indicated no cause for concern about environmental effects of this type of communication system. My Department will keep the subject under review.

Old Weston Road, Molesworth

Mr. Weetch asked the the Secretary of State for the Environment if he has received any proposals to extinguish the public right of way along Old Weston road, near Molesworth.

Mr. Macfarlane [*pursuant to his reply*, 18 March 1985]: My right hon. Friend has received no such proposals. I understand that Cambridgeshire county council has decided to stop up a lay-by on Old Weston road and its application is currently before the magistrates court.

EMPLOYMENT

Shell Refinery, Stanlow

Mr. Woodcock asked the Secretary of State for Employment if, in the light of the announced loss of 1,000 jobs at the Shell refinery at Stanlow, he has any plans to introduce special measures to alleviate the present level of unemployment in the area.

Mr. Alan Clark: I was of course concerned to hear of the proposed manpower reductions at Shell's Stanlow refinery. I understand that Shell hopes this can be achieved by means of voluntary redundancies and natural wastage over a two-year period. All the facilities of the Manpower Services Commission will be made available to help those made redundant find alternative employment or train for new jobs. Local jobcentre and training officials have already contacted the company to offer their assistance.

It is in recognition of its particular problems that the Wirral and Chester travel-to-work area has been designated a development area and is thus eligible for assistance at the highest level. However, the only way to achieve a substantial impact on unemployment in Ellesmere Port and elsewhere is for the Government to maintain their economic policies while encouraging greater enterprise, flexibility and competitiveness in industry and the labour market. In the meantime, the area continues to benefit from our special employment and training measures which are doing much to alleviate the worst effects of unemployment.

Under-age Juveniles

Mr. Greenway asked the Secretary of State for Employment what recent representations he has received, citing individual cases, in response to the issues raised by the report of the low pay unit about the employment of under-age juveniles; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: None. I have nothing to add at present to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton, North-East (Mrs. Short) on 1 February 1985 at column 329.

Unemployment Benefit

Mr. Ashton asked the Secretary of State for Employment how many miners dismissed by the National Coal Board have been refused unemployment benefit since 5 March.

Mr. Alan Clark: The information is not readily available and be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Ashton asked the Secretary of State for Employment what criteria his regional adjudicators use to assess reports from pit managers that the industrial dispute is over and a pit has returned to normal working before awarding unemployment benefit; and how he intends to ensure consistency in pit managers' recommendations of what constitutes normal working.

Mr. Alan Clark: Regional adjudication officers hold independent appointments under social security law and Ministers are precluded from intervening in the adjudication process. I understand, however, that the chief adjudication officer has recently issued guidance aimed at ensuring consistency in the treatment by adjudication officers of information received from pit managers.

Mr. Ashton asked the Secretary of State for Employment why the onus of proving normal working after a trade dispute rests with the claimant of unemployment benefit; and what access to records the claimant has to ascertain this.

Mr. Alan Clark: Social security—formerly national insurance — commissioners' reported decisions which form precedent case law place this onus on the claimant. Copies of decisions are available in the Library and can be seen by claimants at local offices of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr. Ashton asked the Secretary of State for Employment what account his adjudicating officers take, when assessing eligibility for unemployment benefit for dismissed striking miners, of the existence of an overtime ban when assessing whether a pit is to be classified as working normally.

Mr. Alan Clark: Adjudication officers hold independent appointments under social security law and consequently I cannot comment on or intervene in the adjudication process.

WALES

Government Expenditure

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he will publish in the *Official Report* table 3.16 of the Government expenditure plans 1985-86 to 1987-88 expressed in real terms.

Mr. Nicholas Edwards: The following table shows the figures which appeared in table 3.16 of the Government's expenditure plans 1985-86 to 1987-88, adjusted to 1983-84 price levels by means of the relevant gross domestic product deflators.

Public expenditure—Wales

£ million (1983-84 base)

		1979-80	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
16.1	Agriculture, fisheries and food	69	73	61	65	79	81	74	70	70
16.2	Industry, energy, trade and employment (excluding tourism) (1)	91	101	106	84	74	108	135	150	110
Other Services (1)										
16.3	Industry, energy, trade and employment (tourism only)	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	10	10
16.4	Roads and Transport	282	275	287	293	309	275	261	270	290
16.5	Housing	299	255	136	132	198	123	115	110	110
16.6	Other environmental services	279	268	256	268	260	249	249	260	250
16.7	Education	648	666	661	669	673	655	634	620	620
16.8	Arts and libraries	28	27	27	27	27	27	27	30	30
16.9	Health and personal social services	788	849	871	897	916	937	946	960	970
16.10	Other public services	28	26	25	25	30	29	29	30	30
Total other services		2,356	2,371	2,268	2,316	2,419	2,301	2,267	2,290	2,310
16.11	Nationalised industries' external finance	54	33	33	30	25	26	24	20	10
Total expenditure within the Secretary of State's responsibility		2,569	2,578	2,468	2,495	2,597	2,516	2,500	2,530	2,490
Of which:										
Financed by ERDF receipts		6	11	26	24	25	25	38	37	37
Of which:										
Central Government support for the Welsh language		—	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

(1) Memorandum table

Total expenditure within the Secretary of State's responsibility includes the following

	1979-80	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
(a) under industry, energy, trade and employment (excluding tourism)									
Development Board for Rural Wales	14	8	9	9	9	10	9	—	—
Welsh Development Agency	70	80	86	59	44	41	40	—	—
Total	84	88	95	68	53	45	49	—	—
(b) under other services									
Housing Corporations	36	36	36	47	41	37	36	—	—
New Towns	9	12	5	−1	2	2	−11	—	—

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Total	45	48	41	46	43	39	25	—	—
Total Public Corporations	129	136	136	114	96	90	74	—	—

Note:

In some cases the individual figures do not add exactly to the totals shown because both the individual figures and the totals have been derived from unrounded figures.

Berwyn Consultation Zone

Mr. Ron Davies asked the Secretary of State for Wales on what basis the Berwyn consultation zone has been established by the Nature Conservancy Council; what area of land it is designed to protect; how many management agreements have to date been concluded; and over what area of land.

Mr. John Stradling Thomas [*pursuant to his reply*, 18 March, c. *390*]: The Berwyn consultation zone was established on a voluntary basis between the Nature Conservancy Council and the Berwyn Society. It covers an area of 4,887 hectares. No management agreements have been concluded to date.

TRANSPORT

Motorways (Signs)

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Secretary of State for Transport why all the billboards on the M1 advertising Radio Hallam are on the south-bound carriageway while all those advertising Radio Sheffield are on the north-bound carriageway.

Mrs. Chalker: It was agreed with the broadcasting authorities that to sign the BBC1 local radio station in one direction and the IBA station in the other was the fairest and most convenient arrangement. To sign both stations in the same direction would have been confusing to drivers.

M20

Mr. Crouch asked the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the M20 to Dover will be completed.

Mrs. Chalker: I hope to start construction of the Maidstone-Ashford section of the M20 in 1987. This should enable us to complete the motorway to Folkestone in 1989.

There is a scheme for the improvement of the A20 between Folkestone and Dover in our main programme for April 1987 onwards. The date of completion will depend on the progress of the statutory procedures.

Heathrow-Gatwick (Helicopter Link)

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Transport if, in view of the time saving involved, he will make it his policy to maintain a helicopter link between Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

Mr. Michael Spicer: No. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State directed the Civil Aviation Authority last year on environmental grounds to terminate the licence for the Heathrow-Gatwick helicopter service shortly after the opening of the Wisley-Reigate section of the M25.

Car Parks

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce legislation to require owners and operators of car parks to accept responsibility for loss or damage to vehicles therein; and if he will make a statement.

Mrs. Chalker: No; this would not be appropriate.

Motorway Mileage

Mr. Kaufman asked the Secretary of State for Transport what is the total mileage of motorways in Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire.

Mr. Ridley: Motorway mileage — excluding slip roads — in Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire as at December 1984 was as follows:

	Trunk motorways	Principal motorways	All motorways
Cumbria	60	0	60
Lancashire	82	0	82
Merseyside	35	4	39
Greater Manchester	79	8	87
Cheshire	76	0	76

Motor Cycle Helmets (Replacement Visors)

Mr. Iain Mills asked the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to control the quality of motor cycle helmet replacement visors.

Mrs. Chalker: The Department has today circulated draft regulations which would require motor cycle helmet replacement visors to comply with the latest amendments to the relevant British standard. The main requirements are that no replacement visor should be so tinted as to reduce light transmission by more than 50 per cent., and that all visors should be made of material which is resistant to abrasion. The abrasion resistance requirement will also apply to visors sold with new helmets. Manufacturers and retailers will be consulted to ensure that adequate time is provided to set up the necessary arrangements and clear old stocks.

These regulations will make a positive contribution to road safety by removing from the market visors which are excessively dark or abrade easily, so reducing the motorcyclist's ability to see clearly.

British Rail (PSO Grant)

Mr. Roger King asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he has set a cash ceiling on the central Government public service obligation grant to British Rail for 1985-86.

Mr. Ridley: The cash ceiling for the financial year 1985-86 will be £820 million. This is 10 per cent. less in constant prices—£42 million less in cash—than the ceiling for 1984. The figure reflects the progress which the board is making towards its PSO grant target.

The board will now submit a grant claim for 1985-86. The amount of grant actually paid will be settled, within the cash ceiling, in the light of that claim.

PRIME MINISTER

Peterhead

Q17. **Mr. McQuarrie** asked the Prime Minister if she will make an official visit to Peterhead.

The Prime Minister: I have at present no plans to do so.

Local Government Services (Privatisation)

Q22. **Mr. David Atkinson** asked the Prime Minister if she is satisfied with progress in privatisation of local government services.

The Prime Minister: No. That is why we have recently published proposals for legislation to extend competition to a wider range of local authority activities.

Graduate Engineers

Q121. **Mr. Patrick Thompson** asked the Prime Minister if she will make a statement on the demand in the United Kingdom for graduate engineers.

The Prime Minister: There is no precise measure of current or future demand for graduate engineers, and quality is as important as quantity, but there are strong indications of growing demand for greater numbers, primarily in areas relevant to information technology. We have already taken a number of steps to increase output and further measures will be announced later today.

Coal Industry

Q129. **Mr. Wigley** asked the Prime Minister if she is yet in a position to announce the final cost to the Exchequer of the mining strike.

The Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer will deal with this in his Budget statement this afternoon.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Prime Minister if she will define the serious criminal offences she was referring to in her answer of 5 March, *Official Report*, column *774*, about the coal industry.

The Prime Minister: The dismissal and re-employment of its employees are matters for the National Coal Board. The board has made it clear that all cases are considered on their merits, but that there can be no question of re-employing those who have committed acts of serious violence, intimidation or vandalism. The board has already exercised a considerable degree of discretion over dismissals; there have been over 4,000 convictions for offences relating to the coal dispute compared with some 900 dismissals, of whom 280 have been re-employed. This rate of dismissals is no higher than that which has normally occurred over the past five years in the industry. If any person considers that he has been unfairly dismissed he has the right to take his case to an industrial tribunal.

Young People (Unemployment)

133. **Mr. Kilroy-Silk** asked the Prime Minister if she will make a statement on the level of unemployment amongst young people.

The Prime Minister: The Government are concerned to see that there are constructive and worthwhile opportunities for young people. By introducing the youth training scheme in 1983 we took a major step to provide young people with better prospects. At a cost of some £800 million a year, the scheme guarantees a place to all unemployed 16-year-old leavers and also offers places to unemployed 17-year-old school leavers, and has helped about 700,000 youngsters already. The value of the training it provides is reflected in the fact that some 60 per cent. of those leaving the scheme get jobs.

More generally, our economic policies are designed to provide the conditions under which industry and commerce can create sustainable jobs.

Engagements

Mr. Strang asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 19 March.

Mr. Parry asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 19 March.

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 19 March.

Mr. John Mark Taylor asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Tuesday 19 March.

The Prime Minister: This morning I presided at a meeting of the Cabinet and had meetings with ministerial colleagues and others. In addition to my duties in this House I shall be having further meetings later today. This evening I hope to have an audience of Her Majesty the Queen.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

Central America

Mr. Cartwright asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further steps have been taken following the meeting of European Economic Community Foreign Ministers in Costa Rica last September to provide aid to the countries of Central America; and whether Her Majesty's Government are planning to contribute to such aid programmes.

Mr. Raison: Since September 1984 the European Community has approved new aid projects costing some £16 million in Central America from its existing programme of aid to developing countries not associated with the Community. The European Commission is expected to present specific proposals to follow up the commitments made in Costa Rica for consideration by the member states in the near future. Community aid to the region will continue to be financed from the European budget, to which this country makes a substantial contribution.

International Organisations (Financial Contributions)

Mr. Charles Morrison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contributions for

1985 are being made to the following international organisations: the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the World Health Organisation's special programme on human reproduction.

Mr. Raison: At the international population conference held in August 1984, my noble Friend Lord Glenarthur announced the Government's intention to contribute a total of £9·5 million in 1985 to multilateral population organisations. I have now agreed to increase this total sum to £11 million. The following pledges for 1985 have been made:

	£ million
International Planned Parenthood Federation	4·5
United Nations Fund for Population Activities	4·5
WHO Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction	2·0

THE ARTS

Items in Lieu of Tax

Mr. Richard Page asked the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State answering in respect of the Arts if he will make a statement about the future administration of the Government's scheme for accepting works of art in lieu of tax and for indemnifying owners of works of art who lend to appropriate bodies for public exhibition.

Mr. Waldegrave: The acceptance of works of art in lieu of tax and the provision of indemnity cover for public exhibitions call for detailed casework and for consultation with the Government's expert advisers. As from 1 April 1985, it has been decided that these activities can be most effectively co-ordinated by the Museums and Galleries Commission. At present the commission provides advice on the allocation to museums and galleries of works of art which the Government accept in lieu of tax; it also gives advice on the public interest and security aspects of the indemnities for which my right hon. and noble Friend the Minister for the Arts is responsible. From 1 April the commission will take responsibility for the day-to-day administration of acceptances of works of art in lieu of tax, and for the indemnity scheme operated by the Minister for the Arts and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales. The policy and decision making responsibilities of Ministers for these activities will remain unchanged. After 1 April applications for indemnities should be sent direct to the Museums and Galleries Commission: offers of works of art and other heritage property should continue to be made through the capital taxes offices in the first instance.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Public Library Service (Report)

Rev. William McCrea asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what consideration has been given to the report on the Public Library Service in Northern Ireland prepared by the Northern Ireland Assembly; and when he expects to be able to announce his decision.

Mr. Scott: The report made several important recommendations which are being carefully considered. My right hon. Friend will let the Assembly have the Government's response shortly.

Mobile Classrooms

Rev. William McCrea asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many mobile classrooms are erected at controlled primary and secondary schools in each of the Magherafelt, Cookstown, Strabane and Omagh district council areas; how many of these mobile classrooms have received appropriate planning permission; and at what schools these have not received planning permission.

Mr. Scott: The information is as follows:

No. of Mobile Classrooms at

District Council Area	*Controlled Primary Schools*	*Controlled Secondary Schools*
Magherafelt	4	12
Cookstown	15	26
Strabane	15	19
Omagh	21	17

Planning permission has been received for 79 of these mobile classrooms. The schools at which planning permission has not been received are:

Magherafelt District Council area
Ampertaine primary
Maghera primary
Bellaghy primary
Kilross primary
Magherafelt secondary

Cookstown District Council area
Ballynenagh primary
Moneymore primary
Ballinderry primary
Toberlane primary
Cookstown primary
Cookstown high

Magherafelt-Moneymore Road

Rev. William McCrea asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Department of the Environment is taking to ensure the safety of persons along the Magherafelt-Moneymore road.

Mr. Chris Patten: A review is in progress to determine the nature and the timing of works on this road.

Strip Searches (Armagh Prison)

Mr. McNamara asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many strip searches were made of female prisoners in Her Majesty's prison, Armagh, in December, January and February, respectively; if he will give the number of persons involved and the number of times each person was searched; whether any prison contraband, smuggled item or illegal correspondence was discovered in any search, indicating which items; in how many cases prisoners refused to be searched and had to be restrained while the search was being concluded; and if he will indicate the reasons for the search, namely making an appearance at Armagh court house on remand, attending trial, inter-prison visit or other reasons.

Mr. Scott: During December 1984, there was a total of 38 strip searches carried out on 23 prisoners; one prisoner was searched on three occasions; 13 on two occasions and nine once. During January 1985, there was a total of 36 strip searches carried out on 26 prisoners; one prisoner was searched on three occasions; eight on two occasions and 17 once. During February 1985, there were 50 strip searches carried out on 31 prisoners; 19 prisoners were searched on two occasions and 12 once. No prohibited articles were found during these searches and no prisoner refused to be searched. These searches were carried out in the following circumstances:

	Attending Armagh remand court	*Attending trial*	*Inter-prison visits*	**Others*	*Total*
December 1984	1	—	—	37	38
January 1985	2	—	2	32	36
February 1985	1	1	2	46	50

* This category comprises searches in connection with first admission and final discharge, bail court appearances, attendance at other remand courts, appeal court hearings, outside hospital visits, the pre-release programme, and the home leave scheme.

Mr. McNamara asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will break down the published figures on the monthly incidence of strip searches in Her Majesty's prison, Armagh, to indicate the reasons for each search, namely, making an appearance on remand at Armagh court house, attending trial, inter-prison visit, release on parole or other reasons.

Mr. Scott: The information in the form requested is available only from 1 June 1984. The breakdown is as follows:

	Attending Armagh remand court	*Attending trial*	*Inter-prison visits*	*Home leave scheme*	**Others*	*Total*
1984						
June	2	1	—	6	29	38
July	5	—	—	5	15	25
August	2	—	4	4	18	28
September	2	—	—	1	10	13
October	2	—	2	5	21	30
November	2	1	4	2	24	33
December	1	—	—	18	19	38
1985						
January	2	—	2	—	32	36
February	1	1	2	2	44	50

* This category comprises searches in connection with first admission and final discharge, bail court appearances, attendance at other remand courts, appeal court hearings, outside hospital visits, pre-release programme and employment interviews.

Housing Executive (Painting Contracts)

Mr. John David Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland why the Northern Ireland Housing Executive is restricting tender documents for painting contracts to those painting firms which have previously carried out contracts to a value of £100,000 or over; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Chris Patten [*pursuant to his reply,* 11 March 1985, c. *37*]: I am advised by the chairman of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive that the issue of tender documents for painting contracts is not restricted in the way suggested. Financial capacity and management resources are, however, assessed before the issue of invitations to tender for painting and other contracts.

DEFENCE

Porton Down (Yellow Rain)

Mr. Dalyell asked the Secretary of State for Defence if the defence microbiological research laboratories at Porton Down have conducted research on samples of alleged yellow rain.

Mr. Lee: The Chemical Defence Establishment, Porton Down, has conducted research on yellow rain samples as part of a continuing investigation into the alleged use of mycotoxins in south-east Asia. We are not yet in a position to make a statement about the results.

Low Frequency Communications (Scotland)

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the feasibility study being conducted on prospects for extremely low frequency communications in Scotland.

Mr. Butler: Research on ELF is continuing with a view to validating the concept before determining whether it will have an operational role to play.

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the sites being considered for the location of extremely low frequency antenna systems in Scotland.

Mr. Butler: I have nothing to add to the answer which my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces gave to the hon. Member for the Western Isles (Mr. Stewart) on 5 December 1984 at column *181*. Consideration of possible sites remains at an early stage.

Nuclear Weapons (Testing)

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are any reciprocal arrangements with the

United States Government in exchange for the British Government testing British nuclear warheads in the United States of America.

Mr. Butler: The United States and United Kingdom Governments jointly test United Kingdom nuclear devices at the Nevada test site in the United States of America as a part of the continuing exchanges which take place under the terms of the agreement between the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America for co-operation on the uses of atomic energy for mutual defence purposes, Cmnd. 537, July 1958, as amended.

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence under which subheads in the Defence Estimates money is allocated for nuclear weapon testing.

Mr. Butler: Any such expenditure is borne on the defence procurement subheads of Vote 2 of the Defence Estimates.

NATO (Northern Europe)

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether he intends to support the creation of a new North Atlantic Treaty Organisation command with responsibility for the defence of northern Europe.

Mr. Stanley: NATO's existing command structure takes full account of the importance of northern Europe. Any changes to NATO's command structure would be a matter for collective Alliance consideration; none is in prospect.

Test Ban Treaty

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence how much money is allocated out of the research and development budget for defence for research on verification of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Mr. Butler: It would not be in the national interest to reveal details of the defence R and D effort devoted to verification of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence what scientific investigations are being carried out at present on behalf of Her Majesty's Government to overcome any problems of verification of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Mr. Butler: The Ministry of Defence has a continuing programme of work on seismological monitoring and other technologies relevant to the verification of a comprehensive test ban. The Government tabled a working paper on these issues at the Geneva conference on disarmament in August 1983. In addition, we play a full part in the work of the conference on disarmament ad hoc group of scientific experts which considers international co-operation measures in detection and identification of seismic events, and we took part at the end of last year in a technical test of the worldwide collection and exchange of seismological data, the results of which are expected soon.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Libya (Terrorist Organisations)

Mr. Beggs asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations Her Majesty's Government have made to the Government of Libya regarding Colonel Gaddafi's recent statement expressing willingness to support terrorist organisations such as the Irish Republican Army; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Luce: At a meeting in Rome on 5 March with Libyan officials, British officials sought clarification of Colonel Gaddafi's recent statement, stressed to their Libyan counterparts that such statements were very damaging and warned that any evidence of Libyan support for terrorist organisations would be taken very seriously. They made clear that we would carefully assess Libyan actions and attitudes towards the United Kingdom in deciding how far we were prepared to deal with Libya in future.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Warren asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in defining an exclusive fishing zone for the Falklands; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Rifkind: As my right hon. and learned Friend said in the House during the debate on the Falklands—FAC report—on 14 March as reported in columns 495 and 496, the Government have decided to explore possible ways in which to establish a multilaterally based conservation and management regime for fisheries in the waters around the Falkland Islands. We are taking steps to develop that approach.

Gibraltar

Mr. Bidwell asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if Her Majesty's Government will make it their policy not to enter into any further negotiations with the Government of Spain concerning the future of Gibraltar unless Spain ceases to supply arms to Argentina.

Mr. Rifkind: We continue to make our views on the supply of arms to Argentina known to our allies. Our relations with Spain are friendly as befits fellow members of the North Atlantic Alliance, and states soon to be partners in the European Community. It is in that context, and within the framework of the commitment given to the people of Gibraltar in the preamble to the 1969 Gibraltar constitution, that our discussions with Spain on Gibraltar are being held.

Non-proliferation Treaty (Review Conference)

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the British Government's preparations for the non-proliferation treaty third review conference in Geneva in September.

Mr. Luce: We are actively preparing for this important conference. British delegations attended the two preparatory committee meetings in 1984 and we will be represented at the third and last session of the preparatory committee in April. Our preparations have included regular consultations with the other depositaries of the treaty, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Our intensive preparatory work reflects our firm commitment to the treaty and our determination that the conference will be successful.

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the composition of the British delegation to the third review conference of the non-proliferation treaty in Geneva in September.

Mr. Luce: I refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. McCrindle) on 28 January in column 39.

Trident

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the development of the British Trident system is compatible with the Government's obligations under article 6 of the non-proliferation treaty.

Mr. Luce: Yes. Future acquisition of Trident will not violate article VI of the non-proliferation treaty, and will represent the minimum capability necessary to deter aggression. In accordance with this treaty article we remain committed to seeking agreements on effective nuclear arms control. The first priority must be balanced and verifiable reductions in the large arsenals of the superpowers.

South Africa

Mr. Caborn asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the United Kingdom obtains arms and related material from South Africa other than those covered by United Nations Security Council Resolution 558 (1984).

Mr. Butler: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Defence has no contracts for the purchase of any such equipment from South Africa.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Sugar Beet

Mr. Hordern asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food why the Agricultural and Food Research Council makes no charge for work on sugar beet; and what is the cost of the subsidy given for this purpose.

Mr. MacGregor: Under the Food Act 1984 my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Wales and I are required to draw up a programme of research and education in matters affecting the growing of sugar beet and to provide for its funding. The cost of the programme is met through a levy on the growers of sugar beet and on British Sugar plc. Under these arrangements all work carried out in AFRC institutes and elsewhere is paid for in full. There is no element of subsidy.

The programme for 1985-86 is set out in the Sugar Beet (Research and Education) Order 1985, which was laid on 11 March 1985.

Pesticides

Mr. Forman asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what representations he has received advocating the introduction of efficiency tests or standards for pesticide spray application equipment, based upon the number of droplets it produces per unit area of the target.

Mrs. Fenner: None in such specific terms. However, the testing of spraying equipment under the Food and Environment Protection Bill was advocated by a number of speakers during debate on the Bill in another place and by some organisations in their comments on the proposals for legislation.

Mr. Forman asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what studies his Department has made, or is aware of, regarding the effect of the rodenticide Brodifacoum and its effects on barn owls and other birds of prey.

Mrs. Fenner: Before any rodenticide is cleared under the pesticides safety precautions scheme notifiers must supply data on studies of toxicity to non-target species including wildlife populations. This data is then scrutinised by Government experts and by the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, its scientific sub-committee and its specialist environmental panel. Only when this examination of the data has satisfied Government Departments that, provided the recommended precautions are followed, the product can be used with minimal risk to wildlife is the product cleared for use in the United Kingdom. All clearances are kept under review and can be withdrawn or amended in the light of new evidence of risk.

Brodifacoum has been scrutinised in this way. The possibility of a risk to predators such as owls from its persistence in rodent carcases was identified and, for this reason, the chemical currently has commercial clearance for indoor use only. However, further data from small-scale trials have been submitted to the environmental panel and will be forwarded to the scientific sub-committee for consideration in due course.

As part of our continuous surveillance of pesticides use, my Department operates a wildlife incident investigation scheme under which all reported incidents of suspected pesticide poisoning of wildlife are investigated. The results are taken into account in the review of clearances. No incidents linking barn owl deaths in the United Kingdom with the use of Brodifacoum have been reported. There have been reports of owl deaths in Malaysia associated with the widespread outdoor use of Brodifacoum, but the circumstances of this use are radically different from those which pertain in the United Kingdom.

Dairy Produce

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what are the figures for the import to and export from the United Kingdom of dairy produce under individual product headings, for the past five years, indicating in each case the importing and exporting nation concerned.

Mr. MacGregor: The information requested is published annually by Her Majesty's Stationery Office for the major trading nations concerned in reports entitled "Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom".

Food Labelling

Mr. Meadowcroft asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food why he has not involved the Health Education Council in the preliminary discussions his Department is conducting with industry regarding the current plans for nutritional labelling of food.

Mrs. Fenner: The informal discussions which have taken place between MAFF and DHSS officials and representatives of the food industry were essentially to consider the practicalities of fat content labelling of food and did not involve issues of health and safety at work. Following my announcement on 12 March, at column 79, of initial proposals in response to the recommendations of the report of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy on diet and cardiovascular disease we intend to consult widely with all interested parties (including the Health Education Council) before drawing up firm proposals for further labelling requirements.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Schools (Computers)

61. **Sir John Farr** asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make it his policy not to support the supply to schools of computers manufactured by companies whose ownership is outside the United Kingdom.

Mr. Butcher: The only central Government financial support to schools for the purchase of computers has been provided by my Department under the micros for schools schemes, which enabled schools to buy a range of computer equipment at half price.

The equipment for those schemes, which have now been successfully completed, was chosen on a combination of educational, technical and commercial grounds. No decisions have yet been made as to whether there is a case for further direct intervention, but the choice of any equipment for future schemes will be based on the same considerations.

Indirect support for computers in schools, such as curriculum development and teacher training, will continue to be be based on those machines currently used in sufficient volume in schools to justify such support.

62. **Mr. Jack Thompson** asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he is planning to increase computer technology facilities in primary and secondary schools in 1985-86.

Mr. Butcher: Responsibility for the overall level of computer technology facilities rests with the local educational authorities and individual schools and I welcome the fact that both LEAs and schools are devoting additional resources to this area.

My Department can, through further limited financial support, encourage schools to invest in new areas of technology with which they might otherwise be reluctant to become involved.

The micros in schools schemes were an exellent example of this in that schools were helped with the purchase of their first computer and as a result most schools have developed their computer facilities from their own resources.

We continue to pay close attention to developments in educational technology, and are considering whether further assistance might be undertaken in 1985-86 or subsequent years.

Scrap Metal

Miss Boothroyd asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has made representations to the European Commission about the level of prices of scrap metal as a raw material.

Mr. Butcher: The only grounds for making such representation under the Treaty of Paris are that there is a serious shortage. This is not the case as the United Kingdom has an annual surplus of supply over demand of the order of 4 million tonnes. However, I expect this subject to be on the agenda for discussion at the meeting of the Council of EC Industry Ministers on 26 March.

Lonrho

Mr. Teddy Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on how many occasions and for what purposes his Department has initiated inquiries into Lonrho; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Fletcher: On 23 May 1973 the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry appointed inspectors under section 165*(b)* of the Companies Act 1948 to conduct an investigation into Lonrho Ltd. following boardroom disputes. In addition, the following proposed acquisitions by Lonrho have been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973: Lonrho/Scottish and Universal Investments, on which the Commission reported in 1979, and Lonrho/House of Fraser, on which the Commission reported in 1981 and 1985. The purpose of these investigations was to establish, in each case, whether a merger situation existed and whether it might be expected to operate against the public interest.

Lonrho was also involved in the recent investigation into the membership of House of Fraser plc carried out by Mr. John Griffiths QC under section 172 of the Companies Act 1948.

Weighing Equipment

Mr. Eldon Griffiths asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he has received the final report of the Eden committee on "Metrological Control of Equipment for Use for Trade"; if he will place a copy in the Library; how soon he expects to determine his policy on its recommendations; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Fletcher: I have just received the report of the Eden committee on metrological control. I shall study its contents carefully and expect it to publish the report as soon as possible. It is too early to estimate when recommendations might be implemented since extensive consultation may be necessary beforehand.

Cable Television

Mr. Hannam asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he is taking any action to ensure that companies obtaining a licence to operate a cable television service avoid siting fixed equipment on pavements in such a way that it presents a hazard and obstruction for disabled people; and if he will be issuing any specific guidance on the subject.

Mr. Butcher: Where my right hon. Friend grants a licence to a cable operator under section 7 of the Telecommunications Act 1984 and applies to that operator the telecommunications code (which gives powers to install apparatus) he will ensure that conditions are included governing the manner in which apparatus is to be installed. It is intended that such conditions should refer, among other things, to the prevention of safety hazards and to other obligations designed to ensure that the interests of the disabled are properly protected.

Regional Industrial Policy

Mr. *D. E.* Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what criteria were used, when drawing up his revised regional industrial policy, in relation to the different categories of unemployment, long term unemployment, job opportunities, industrial structure and peripherality, referred to in his statement of 28 November 1984, *Official Report*, column 942.

Mr. Trippier: Decisions on the new assisted areas were based on an assessment of each travel-to-work-area's current and future needs for additional employment opportunities. The factors taken into account were those which were both available on a comparable basis throughout Great Britain and significant aids to such an assessment. However, map decisions are not entirely susceptible of statistical treatment, and statistics were therefore used to inform but not to dictate the circumstances.

Information Technology Equipment

Mr. Campbell-Savours asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he will make a statement on information technology equipment imports from the Republic of South Korea.

Mr. Butcher: Imports from the Republic of Korea of IT equipment and components (defined as activity headings 3301, 3302, 3441, 3443, 3444, 3453 and 3454) in the past five years have been as follows (£'000):

	£'000
1980	24,960
1981	24,184
1982	31,493
1983	46,072
1984	88,984

Dr McDonald asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, if, pursuant to his answer of 21 January, *Official Report*, column 278, he will provide a breakdown, by each sector of the information technology industry, namely, office machinery, electronic data processing equipment, telecommunications equipment, radio and electronic capital goods, electronic components and sub-assemblies and electronic consumer goods, of the balance of trade for each year since 1979.

Mr. Butcher [*pursuant to his reply*, 18 March1985, c. *346*]

The information required is:

Balance of trade (exports fob-imports cif)

£ million

	1979	*1980*	*1981*	*1982*	*1983*	**1984*
Office Machinery	−48	−25	−33	−49	−76	−60
Electronic Data Processing Equipment	−190	−144	−400	−553	−872	−794
Telecommunications Equipment	+50	+27	+36	+19	−43	−44
Radio and Electronic Capital Goods	+120	+129	+180	+251	+305	+180
Passive Electronic Components	−47	−35	−55	−96	−132	−153
Active Electronic Components and Sub-assemblies	+34	+27	−89	−86	−286	−360
Electronic Consumer Goods	−387	−363	−709	−922	−1,055	−563
Total	−468	−384	−1,070	−1,436	−2,159	−1,794

Note. The Activity Headings (Standard Industrial Classification, revised 1980 required by the question and given above are regarded as constituting the information technology industry. A slightly wider defintion—including electrical instruments and control systems (AH 3442 in the Standard Industrial Classification, revised 1980)—was used for the answer on 21 January 1985.

* First 3 quarters.

House of Fraser (Purchase)

Mr. Gould asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what inquiries he is making when considering whether to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the purchase of the House of Fraser by the Al-Fayed family about the business backgrounds of members of that family; and if he is making any inquiries of the Egyptian Government.

Mr. Fletcher: My right hon. Friend announced on 14 March that he had decided in accordance with the recommendation of the Director General of Fair Trading not to refer the proposed acquisition of House of Fraser plc by Al-Fayed Investment Holdings plc to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In considering whether to make a reference he took into account the statements made and assurances given by the Al-Fayed family about its intentions with regard to House of Fraser, the support given to those statements and assurances by Kleinwort, Benson Ltd. and the fact that the board of House of Fraser and its advisers S G Warburg and Co. Ltd. intended to recommend the offer for acceptance.

Motor Vehicle Distribution Systems

Mr. Pawsey asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the implementation in the United Kingdom of the European Community Commission's regulation concerning the motor vehicle distribution systems published on 18 January.

Mr. Fletcher: The Government very much welcome the adoption of this regulation, which seeks not only to give greater legal certainty to dealers and manufacturers but to ensure that selective distribution systems do not partition the Community's internal market. The Government believe that the regulation will give consumers greater freedom to buy from dealers in other member states if they wish, which in turn should add impetus to the present trend towards a narrowing of price differences between member states. The Government look to the Commission to ensure that the regulation, which comes into force on 1 July 1985, is effective. They are proposing to the Commission that the effect of the regulation as well as any practical problems it raises for dealers and manufacturers should be reviewed after a reasonable trial period.

SCOTLAND

Road Building (Contracts)

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the 10 contractors who have received the largest share of motorway and trunk road construction contracts in the past three years, giving for each contractor the total value of contracts received.

Mr. Ancram: During the three years ended 28 February 1985, 90 contracts each costing over £100,000 were awarded to 39 contractors. The 10 contractors who received the largest total shares of these contracts were as follows:

	£ million
1. Balfour Beatty Ltd.	27·5
2. Fairclough Civil Engineering Ltd.	17·1
3. Tractor Shovels (Contracts) Ltd.	14·3
4. Norwest Holst Ltd.	12·3
5. Tarmac Construction Ltd.	11·2
6. Shanks and McEwan Ltd.	8·7
7. Whatlings (Civil Engineering) Ltd.	8·6
8. W. J. Barr and Sons (Scotland) Ltd.	6·4
9. A. Monk and Co. plc.	6·2
10. Rush and Tompkins Ltd.	6·0

Dornoch Firth (Road Bridge)

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether the proposed road bridge across the Dornoch Firth will be subject to tolls.

Mr. Ancram: No.

Schools (Capitation Allowance)

Mr. Maxton asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how much each authority provides to its schools in capitation allowance *(a)* at the latest available date and *(b)* in 1977-78 expressed (i) at current prices and (ii) in 1977-78 prices in each case.

Mr. Allan Stewart: Individual education authorities are responsible for determining capitation allowances, and information about these is not held centrally.

Redundancies

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the number of redundancies notified in the Glasgow, Pollok constituency for each year since 1970.

Mr. Allan Stewart: There are no comprehensive statistics on redundancies. The Manpower Services Commission compiles information on redundancies affecting 10 or more workers, but separate figures for areas smaller than travel-to-work areas are not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Private Residential Homes

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how many private residential homes have been registered with his Department since 1979.

Mr. John MacKay: Statutory responsibility for the registration of residential establishments provided for social work purposes rests primarily with local authorities. It is open to my right hon. Friend to direct that applications for registration should be made to him in particular cases, but he has not exercised this power since 1979.

Scottish Development Agency (Grants and Loans)

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will seek from the chairman of the Scottish Development Agency information about grants or loans awarded by the agency over the past six months to individuals whose financial affairs had at the time been put in trust; if he will publish details in the *Official Report*; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Allan Stewart: I shall reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Forest Estates (Sales)

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the forest estates, together with their acreage, which have been sold by the Forestry Commission over the last 12 months.

Mr. John MacKay: I shall reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Limited List Prescribing

Sir Dudley Smith asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what were the numbers of adverse reactions received in the years 1977 to 1984 for each of the licensed benzodiazepine products; and if any of the benzodiazepine products that will remain available for prescription on the National Health Service present adverse reaction problems not reported in other benzodiazepine products which are included on the list of drugs no longer prescribable on the National Health Service.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The information requested relating to licensed benzodiazepine medicinal products is set out in the table. It is important to note that an adverse reaction report to the Committee on Safety of Medicines does not necessarily demonstrate a causal relationship between the reaction and the medicine concerned.

Some benzodiazepine products that will remain available in the National Health Service after 1 April 1985 have been suspected of adverse reactions which have not been reported for products that will not be so available. However, it should be borne in mind that the number and type of adverse reactions associated with a medicine depend in part on its licensed indications and volume of prescribing. The fact that a medicine may have been the subject of more or different adverse reactions reports than others does not necessarily mean that it is less safe than the others. The Committee on Safety of Medicines has advised that when used in accordance with its respective data sheets the benefits of benzodiazepines outweigh their risks.

Reports of suspected adverse reactions to benzodiazepine drugs

Drug	*1977*	*1978*	*1979*	*1980*	*1981*	*1982*	*1983*	*1984*
Alprazolam	—	—	—	—	—	—	57	43
Bromazepam	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	11
Chlor Azepoxide	7	11	6	4	4	6	2	3
Clobazam	—	—	44	37	19	16	16	21
Clonazepam	9	6	—	2	—	3	3	6
Diazepam	33	53	25	18	11	30	18	17
Flunitrazep	—	—	—	—	—	3	13	10
Flurazepam	24	31	10	13	8	6	2	3
Ketazolam	—	—	—	10	2	4	2	1
Loprazolam Mesylate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Lorazepam	43	36	29	31	24	24	35	20
Lormetazepam	—	—	—	—	5	8	15	12
Medazepam	2	2	2	1	—	1	—	—
Midazolam Hydrochloride	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	30
Nitrazepam	16	12	8	13	10	5	6	2
Oxazepam	4	5	—	4	1	2	—	1
Potassium Clorazepate	25	13	19	13	7	6	5	9
Prazepam	—	—	—	—	—	3	15	2
Temazepam	2	31	25	35	26	21	23	27
Triazolam	—	—	50	51	48	87	41	20

Social Protection (Expenditure)

Mr. Hordern asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will publish tables in the *Official Report*, with such information as he has, for West Germany and France, as well as for the United Kingdom on expenditure on social protection in similar form to that used in *Economic Trends*, December 1984, page 91.

Mr. Whitney: Estimated expenditure on social protection in West Germany, France and the United Kingdom in 1982 was as follows:

Social Protection Expenditure, by Function, 1982 (In Billions of National Monetary Units)

Function	*West Germany (DM billion)*			*France (Fr. billion)*			*United Kingdom (£ billion)*		
	Benefits in cash	*Benefits in kind*	*Total*	*Benefits in cash*	*Benefits in kind*	*Total*	*Benefits in cash*	*Benefits in kind*	*Total*
1. Sickness	28·17	94·90	123·07	23·69	215·32	239·00	2·91	10·47	13·38
2. Invalidity disablement, occupational accidents and diseases	36·53	14·39	50·94	64·71	18·00	82·71	3·66	2·48	6·14
3. Old age and survivors	178·05	19·37	197·42	382·75	9·70	392·45	26·01	1·11	27·12
4. Family and maternity	29·97	4·99	34·97	91·31	21·54	112·87	5·33	2·46	7·79
5. Unemployment and promotion of employment	23·84	16·64	40·49	90·87	—	90·87	7·43	0·30	7·73
6. Housing	0·15	3·81	3·96	—	25·36	25·36	1·02	—	1·02
7. Miscellaneous	1·11	1·94	3·05	2·29	0·21	2·50	0·22	0·48	0·70
Total	297·84	156·06	453·90	655·62	290·14	962·80	46·58	17·30	63·88

The following points should be noted:

(i) The data are exactly as given in the Eurostat Social Protection Statistical Bulletin, No. 1, 1984. Apart from minor inconsistencies, attributable to roundings, in the totals for West Germany and France, there appears to be a major inconsistency in the French data: total benefits in cash plus total benefits in kind do not sum to the total expenditure figure shown. This inconsistency should be corrected in the next issue of the statistical bulletin, which is due to be published later this month.

(ii) The data are shown in billions of national monetary units for 1982, and are provisional. To convert the West German and French figures into sterling equivalents, use may be made of purchasing power parity exchange rates. The relevant rates for 1982 were: DM 1 = £0·225 and Fr. 1 = £0·068.

(iii) The figures have been harmonised in accordance with the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS).

(iv) It should be noted that data for social protection expenditure do not include fiscal benefits or capital transactions.

(v) The figures cover both Government and non-Government—for example, occupational pensions—programmes, but information is not available for West Germany or France on the division of social protection expenditure between the two, as shown for the United Kingdom in "Economic Trends", December 1984, page 91.

Board and Lodging Payments

Mr. Wigley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what is his estimate of the saving to the Exchequer in Wales from his limiting of board and lodging payments to an average of £50 per week.

Mr. Whitney: Estimates of savings in respect of Wales are not available separately. The total estimated savings from all the proposals set out in the consultative document on board and lodging are expected to be of the order of £70 million in 1985-86 and somewhat higher in subsequent years.

Mr. Grylls asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many of the drugs and medicines specifically excluded from his limited list of prescribable drugs were not prescribable to National Health Service patients at the time the final list was originally published.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: All of the products which will cease to be available under the National Health Service on 1 April were prescribable, at National Health Service expense, when the final version of the selected list was announced. About 60 of them were, however, subject to recommendations of the advisory committee on borderline substances that they were not drugs in the circumstances of general practice and so should not be prescribed.

Child Benefit

Mr. Irving asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many families are currently in receipt of child benefit payments from his Department; what proportion of the total number of families in the United Kingdom this figure represents; what is the current annual cost of child benefit; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Whitney: About 6·9 million beneficiaries in Great Britain, close to 100 per cent. of those eligible, receive child benefit and the estimated cost for 1984-85 is £4·3 billion.

Benefits (Review)

Mr. Irving asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what progress he has made in his review of the benefits system; when he hopes to propose changes in the present system to Parliament; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Whitney: I refer my hon. Friend to my reply to the hon. Member for Newport, East (Mr. Hughes) on 12 March at column *107*.

Health Authorities (Executive Directors)

Sir William Clark asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many executive directors of the 14 regional health authorities have been recruited, differentiating between those recruited from within the National Health Service and those from outside.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: Regional general managers have so far been appointed by 13 of the 14 regional health authorities. Twelve come from within the NHS and one from outside.

NHS (Training Allowances)

Mr. Stern asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if circular RPO/84/12, relating to the effect of implementing the revised training allowances agreement on the provision of clinical training for professions allied to medicine and speech therapists, has now been sent to all regional personnel officers.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The paper to which my hon. Friend refers was tabled for discussion at two meetings of departmental officials and regional personnel officers in April and June last year. The paper was circulated in advance as a matter of routine in order to enable participants to prepare for the discussion.

Charges

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will break down the net increase of £40 million in total income from charges following his statement of 11 March, *Official Report*, column 22, showing the amount attributable to increases in *(a)* prescription charges and pre-payment certificates, *(b)* dental charges, *(c)* elastic stockings and tights, wigs and fabric supports, *(d)* charges for private patients and *(e)* charges for overseas visitors.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The information is as follows:

	£ million
a. Prescription charges and prepayment certificates	19
b. Dental charges	49
c. Elastic stockings and tights, wigs and fabric supports	*1
d. Charges for private patients	4
e. Charges for overseas visitors	0·1
f. Other	†1
	74
Less: Loss of income on the General Ophthalmic Services	(–) 35
	39

* Estimate (not separately identified)

† Mainly additional income from road traffic accident charges and blood handling charges.

Open University

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what assessment he has made of the effect on disabled persons and their employment prospects of reductions in courses at the Open University; if he is taking any action in this regard; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Newton: We are currently considering whether any help might be given where the Open University is engaged in fields concerned with disability. Last year we agreed to provide £100,000 over two years to MENCAP to enable the Open University to develop a course designed to help carers of mentally handicapped people.

Disabled People (Report)

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will make a statement on the report of a comparison of social services for people with disabilities in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, published by the Royal Association for Disablement and Rehabilitation, a copy of which has been sent to him; what response Her Majesty's Government are making to this report; if he will now commission a study of comparative positions in the whole of the EEC; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Newton: This report is a welcome addition to the information already available about various aspects of provision for disabled people in European countries. We have no plans to commission an additional study of our own.

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what direct or indirect support he provides to the Open University to provide graduate education for disabled persons; if he will increase such provision by direct or indirect means; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Newton: We have kept in close touch with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Science. We fully support the action he has taken in response to the report of the Open University visiting committee and welcome the recommendation in that report that the Open University should protect its services for disabled students.

"The Health Service in England"

Dr. David Clark asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many copies of his Departments' leaflet, "The Health Service in England," were printed; and at what cost.

Mr. John Patten: Some 450,000 copies of the leaflet were printed. The cost of printing and distributing it to regional health authorities was £6,370.

Dr. David Clark asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what discussions he had with National Health Service trade unions before publishing his leaflet, "The Health Service in England".

Mr. John Patten: None. The leaflet is a summary of factual material—already published in the 1984 annual report on the Health Service in England: October 1984: HMSO £6·95 — on which there was no cause for consultation.

"Mortgage Repayment Difficulties"

Mr. Heddle asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will make a statement on the recommendations of the Building Societies Association report, "Mortgage Repayment Difficulties" a copy of which has been sent to him, in so far as they relate to his responsibilities.

Mr. Whitney: We have read this report with interest, particularly those parts of it which discuss the help which can be given with mortgage interest payments to those getting supplementary benefit. The whole question of help with housing costs is currently under consideration as part of the social security reviews.

Energy Saver Scheme

Mr. Heddle asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will publish full details of his Department's energy saver scheme available to applicants in receipt of supplementary benefit.

Mr. Whitney: People eligible for supplementary benefit whose homes are draughty may be entitled to lump sum payments to buy materials for simple measures to reduce draughts. They may also be entitled to payments to buy hot water cylinder jackets. The normal rules for entitlement to single payments apply so that, for example, claimants with savings over £500 are expected to put the excess towards the cost of the items concerned. In addition, local authorities can give grants towards the cost of loft insulation through the homes insulation scheme.

Mentally Ill Patients, Salford

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if, pursuant to the answer of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, the hon. Member for Oxford, West and Abingdon (Mr. Patten) on 12 March concerning mentally ill patients in Salford, he will make a statement on the representations made to him by the Salford city council and the Salford health authority; what assessment he made of the problems they drew to his attention with particular reference to Prestwich hospital and what response he made.

Mr. John Patten: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Extremely Low Frequency Communications

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Social Services whether he will commission a study of the effects of extremely low frequency communications on human beings.

Mr. John Patten: At the moment we do not see a need to commission such a study. We shall, however, continue to keep the subject under review.

Prescribing Levels

Mr. Meadowcroft asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will monitor quantities per item prescribed in order to check the effect of increased charges on prescribing levels.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: General practitioner prescribing is already monitored.

NHS (General Services)

Mr. Ralph Howell asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if, in the manner of the answer to the hon. Member for Norfolk, North of 21 December, at columns 412 to 414, he will provide figures for expenditure by the family practitioner services, the Dental Estimates Board, the Prescription Pricing Authority and other special health authorities providing National Health Service central services for 1983-84; and if he will also publish comparable figures, at current and at 1983-84 prices, and comparable percentages for 1960 and 1970, for the above categories and those in the original answer.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke [*pursuant to his reply*, 22 January 1985, c. *414*]: The tables give the analysis of expenditure requested as far as it can be provided on a comparable basis.

The figures for 1960-61, 1970-71 and 1983-84 are derived from the annual accounts of health authorities—and their predecessor hospital authorities, executive councils, etc.—in England for the respective financial years. Those for 1960-61 and 1970-71 at 1983-84 prices are calculated from the base years' figures by adjusting for general inflation as measured by the gross domestic product deflator at market prices.

Comparisons over this long period cannot be entirely reliable because of changes in the structure of GDP and in the organisation of the NHS.

TABLE 1

Current expenditure by hospital authorities etc. analysed subjectively (ie by type)

	1960-61			*1970-71*		
	From annual accounts £ million	*At 1983-84 prices £ million*	*Proportion of total per cent.*	*From annual accounts £ million*	*At 1983-84 prices £ million*	*Proportion of total per cent.*
A. Pay						
Total staff salaries and wages	286·2	2,003·4	69·23	706·0	3,233·5	74·49
B. Non-pay						
Drugs	14·8	103·6	3·58	27·4	125·5	2·89
Dressings				6·2	28·4	0·65
Medical and surgical appliances and equipment	16·4	114·8	3·97	43·4	198·8	4·58
Provisions	37·5	262·5	9·08	46·0	210·7	4·85
Staff uniforms and patient's clothing	3·6	25·2	0·87	6·8	31·1	0·72
General services (power, light, heating, water, cleaning and laundry)	29·4	205·8	7·11	42·1	192·8	4·44
Maintenance of buildings, plant and grounds	17·3	121·1	4·18	26·0	119·1	2·74
Domestic repairs, renewals and replacement	7·2	50·4	1·74	12·6	57·7	1·33
Office services (office equipment, printing, stationery, advertising, postage, telephone, etc.)	5·9	41·3	1·43	15·0	68·7	1·58
Transport	2·0	14·0	0·48	4·7	21·5	0·50
Travelling and subsistence expenses	1·4	9·8	0·34	2·8	12·8	0·29
Rents, rates and tithes	6·2	43·4	1·50	14·1	64·6	1·49
Contractual arrangements for patient care	2·9	20·3	0·70	5·0	22·9	0·53
Other expenses	11·2	78·4	2·71	19·4	88·8	2·05
TOTAL	155·8	1,090·6	37·69	271·5	1,243·4	28·64
C. Total pay and non-pay	442·0	3,094·0	106·92	977·5	4,476·9	103·13
Less direct credits (staff lodging charges, canteen and other sales, etc.)	(28·6)	(200·2)	(6·92)	(29·7)	(136·0)	(3·13)
D. Total	413·4	2,893·8	100·00	947·8	4,340·9	100·00

Notes to Table 1

1. The figures do not include expenditure on community health and ambulance services which prior to NHS re-organisation on 1 April 1974 were the responsibility of local government authorities.
2. The administrative expenses of executive councils which were responsible for the administration of family practitioner services are included in the table as such costs are reflected in the annual accounts of health authorities from 1974-75. For 1960-61 an apportionment of composite England and Wales figures was necessary to derive figures for England only.
3. For years prior to 1974-75 the analyses of expenditure by type provided by the annual accounts are less detailed than those for later years and analyses by function were not prepared.
4. "Other expenses" includes the total non-pay expenditure on the blood transfusion and mass radiography services for which component details are not readily available—£1·0 million in 1960-61 and £1·8 million 1970-71 (£7·0 million and £8·2 million at 1983-84 prices).
5. Total capital expenditure by the authorities whose current expenditure is included in the table was £25·1 million in 1960-61 and £119·2 million in 1970-71 (£175·7 million and £545·9 million at 1983-84 prices).

Table 2

Expenditure on family practitioner services

	1960-61			*1970-71*			*1983-84*	
	From annual accounts £ million	*At 1983-84 prices £ million*	*Proportion of total Per cent.*	*From annual accounts £ million*	*At 1983-84 prices £ million*	*Proportion of total Per cent.*	*From annual accounts £ million*	*Proportion of total Per cent.*
A. *General medical services*								
1. Payments to general medical practitioners								
(a) Basic practice allowance and additions	79·4	555·8	38·94	38·4	175·9	9·50	202·1	7·29
(b) Standard capitation fees				66·0	302·3	16·34	294·9	10·64
(c) Payments for out of hours responsibilities				11·5	52·7	2·85	65·8	2·37
(d) Direct payment for practice accommodation and ancillary staff				11·4	52·2	2·82	148·0	5·34
(e) Other payments, fees and allowances				14·5	66·4	3·59	120·1	4·33
2. Superannuation contributions (authorities' share)	4·9	34·3	2·40	7·1	32·5	1·76	34·4	1·24
3. Payments to contractors for disposable sterile syringes	—	—	—	0·2	0·9	0·05	0·8	0·03
Total	84·3	590·1	41·34	149·1	682·9	36·91	866·1	31·24
B. *Pharmaceutical services*								
1. Supply and dispensing of drugs and appliances by pharmacists	75·3	527·1	36·93	167·8	768·5	41·54	1,322·1	47·69
Less charges to patients (retained by pharmacists)	(10·8)	(75·6)	(5·30)	(14·3)	(65·5)	(3·54)	(94·7)	(3·42)
2. Supply and dispensing of drugs and appliances by medical and dental practitioners	2·5	17·5	1·23	8·4	38·5	2·08	101·4	3·66

	1960-61			1970-71			1983-84	
	From annual accounts £ million	*At 1983-84 prices £ million*	*Proportion of total Per cent.*	*From annual accounts £ million*	*At 1983-84 prices £ million*	*Proportion of total Per cent.*	*From annual accounts £ million*	*Proportion of total Per cent.*
3. Basic practice allowance	—	—	—	—	—	—	20·6	0·74
4. Superannuation contributions (authorities' share)	0·1	0·7	0·05	0·3	1·4	0·07	0·9	0·03
5. Other expenditure	0·3	2·1	0·15	—	—	—	3·8	0·14
Total	67·4	471·8	33·06	162·2	742·9	40·15	1,354·1	48·84
C. *General dental services*								
1. Fees to dental practitioners	49·5	346·5	24·27	90·0	412·2	22·28	572·0	20·63
Less charges to patients (retained by dentists)	(9·0)	(63·0)	(4·41)	(16·2)	(74·2)	(4·01)	(158·2)	(5 71)
2. Salaries of dental practitioners practising at health centres, etc.	0·1	0·7	0·05	0·1	0·5	0·02	1·0	0·04
3. Superannuation contributions (authorities' share)	1·9	13·3	0·93	3·2	14·6	0·79	17·9	0·65
4. Other expenditure	—	—	—	—	—	—	1·1	0·04
Total	42·5	297·5	20·84	77·1	353·1	19·08	433·8	15·65
D. *General ophthalmic services*								
1. Fees for sight testing	4·7	32·9	2·31	8·9	40·7	2·20	72·2	2·60
2. Supply and repair of glasses	10·2	71·4	5·00	16·9	77·4	4·18	89·6	3·24
Less charges to patients (retained by opticians)	(5·2)	(36·4)	(2·55)	(10·2)	(46·7)	(2·52)	(44·3)	(1·60)
3. Superannuation contributions (authorities' share)	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·3	0·01
4. Other expenditure	—	—	—	—	—	—	0·5	0·02
Total	9·7	67·9	4·76	15·6	71·4	3·86	118·3	4·27
Total expenditure on family practitioner services	203·9	1,427·3	100·00	404·0	1,850·3	100·00	2,772·3	100·00

Notes to Table 2

1. The table shows total payments made to doctors, pharmacists, dentists, opticians and others contracted to the NHS to provide family practitioner services (FPS).
2. Annual accounts of health authorities (and their predecessor executive councils) provide one analysis only of such expenditure which assigns it functionally to service.
3. The table shows 1960-61 and 1970-71 FPS expenditure categorised as far as practicable in the same format as that of the annual white papers on the summarised accounts of health authorities since 1974-75. Thus, charges to patients retained by pharmacists, dentists and opticians are reflected in the table but other items of FPS income collected by health authorities (or executive councils) such as charges to patients for dental treatment at health centres and receipts from the sale of prescription charge pre-payment certificates, are excluded.
4. For 1960-61 the accounts provide separate services totals for England and similar totals for Wales with detailed analyses of only the composite England and Wales totals. It has therefore been necessary to derive the detailed figures for England pro-rata.
5. All spending on FPS is regarded as current expenditure. Some relatively insignificant costs strictly of a capital nature (relating only to certain payments made to general medical practitioners for practice accommodation) are however included.

Table 3

Expenditure by the Dental Estimates Board, the prescription pricing authority and other special health authorities providing NHS central services

	1960-61			1970-71			1983-84	
	From Annual Accounts £ million	*At 1983-84 Prices £ million*	*Proportion of Total Per cent.*	*From Annual Accounts £ million*	*At 1983-84 Prices £ million*	*Proportion of Total Per cent.*	*From Annual Accounts £ million*	*Proportion of Total Per cent.*
1. Expenditure by the Dental Estimates Board								
(a) Salaries and Wages	0·7	4·9	87·50	1·9	8·7	73·08	10·2	92·73
(b) Non-pay	0·1	0·7	12·50	0·7	3·2	26·92	0·8	7·27
Total	0·8	5·6	100·00	2·6	11·9	100·00	11·0	100·00
2. Expenditure by the Prescription Pricing Authority								
(a) Salaries and Wages	0·7	4·9	87·50	1·6	7·3	88·89	11·3	88·98
(b) Non-pay	0·1	0·7	12·50	0·2	0·9	11·11	1·4	11·02
Total	0·8	5·6	100·00	1·8	8·2	100·00	12·7	100·00
3. Expenditure by other special health authorities providing NHS central services								
(a) Salaries and Wages	N/A	—	—	N/A	—	—	1·6	32·00
(b) Non-pay	N/A	—	—	N/A	—	—	3·4	68·00
Total	N/A	—	—	N/A	—	—	5·0	100·00

Notes to Table 3

1. The table shows summaries of the detailed accounts of the Dental Estimates Board (DEB), the Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA) and its predecessor Joint Pricing Committee for England (JPC); together with a composite summary of the accounts for 1983-84 only of other special health authorities providing NHS central services.
2. (a) Other special health authorities providing NHS central services comprise:
    - (i) the Central Blood Laboratories Authority (CBLA)—established 1 December 1982.
    - (ii) the Mental Health Act Commission—established 1 September 1983.

(iii) the Rampton Hospital Review Board—established 11 June 1981.
(iv) the Rural Dispensing Committee—established 1 April 1983.

(b) The expenses of two analogous authorities are excluded. The first is the Health Service Supply Council, established on 14 July 1980, the expenses of which are met in full from charges made to regional health authorities. The second is the National Health Service Training Authority which was established on 1 October 1983 and whose first complete financial year ends on 31 March 1985.

(c) The functions of all these special health authorities are either new or were devolved by the Department and comparable figures for 1960-61 and 1970-71 are consequently not available.

3. Capital expenditure by the DEB and the JPC is not separately identifiable and is included in the totals. The amounts are known to be insignificant except that there was substantial capital expenditure by the DEB in 1970-71.
For 1983-84 the PPA and the CBLA recorded capital expenditure of £2·8 million and £5·4 million. These sums are excluded from the table.

Abortions

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many discharges from hospital there were following diagnosis of septic abortion in each of the following years: 1967, 1968, 1969, 1975, 1980, 1982 and 1983.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke [*pursuant to his reply,* 20 February, c. *501*]: I regret that the estimate given for the number of discharges, including deaths, from NHS hospitals in England and Wales with main diagnosis of septic abortion in 1982 was incorrect. The revised estimate is 390.

Resettlement Units

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what savings he estimates in *(a)* staff, *(b)* running costs *(c)* repair costs and *(d)* the sale or lease of buildings from the closure of 21 national reassessment centres.

Mr. Whitney [*pursuant to his reply,* 1 March, c. *338*]: I understand that the hon. Member is referring to the closure of the Department's 23 resettlement units. As the process of consultation referred to in my hon. Friend's reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Elmet (Mr. Batiste) on 5 February at column *548-49* has not yet begun, it is not possible to give a realistic estimate of savings in any of the categories listed. The hon. Member may wish to be aware, however, that the approximate annual amount saved from the closure of re-establishment centres which will be made available to provide better resettlement facilities is £2 million.

Pesticides

Mr. Ron Davies asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he is aware of any studies relating to myopia in connection with organophosphorus pesticide exposure among schoolchildren in Japan; and what studies have been conducted into similar effects in the United Kingdom.

Mr. John Patten [*pursuant to his reply,* 4 March, column *412*]: We are aware of two Japanese studies. One showed a correlation between the amount of organophosporus pesticides used one year and incidence in myopia in schoolchildren the following year. Later work showed that peaks in the earlier incidence of myopia corresponded with peaks in the amounts of these pesticides sold. The evidence available at present suggests that the studies were not particularly soundly based, and there are other Japanese papers which criticise these types of studies and argue against organophosphorus pesticides being a major or even probable cause of myopia in young people.

Organophosphorus pesticides can cause eye effects, but these are transient, wearing off as the pesticide disappears fairly rapidly from the tissues, as it does from food. Because of the approved methods of use in the United Kingdom, people should not be exposed to this pesticide, and food surveys have not found any appreciable residues of these substances; there may be different routes of exposure in Japan.

No studies are being sponsored by the Government as there is not considered to be a problem in this country. However, any further information from Japan or elsewhere will be carefully considered.

Supplementary Benefit

Mr. Williams asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will estimate the cost of extending long-term supplementary benefit to people who have been unemployed for more than 12 months in 1985-86, giving the gross and net full year costs.

Mr. Whitney [*pursuant to his reply,* 4 March, c. *413*]: It is estimated that the cost would be about £500 million in 1985-86. For the purpose of this costing there would be no offsetting savings from other benefits and the net and gross costs are therefore the same.

Lynders Wood Court, Braintree

Ms. Harman asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many residents at Lynders Wood court, London road, Black Notley, Braintree, Essex, are supplementary pensioners; and how many of them are *(a)* being paid board and lodging allowance or *(b)* allowances for residential care.

Mr. Whitney [*pursuant to his reply,* on 8 March 1985, c. *650*]: Lynders Wood court, London road, Black Notley, Braintree, Essex, has only one resident in receipt of a supplementary pension who is being paid a board and lodging allowance. This establishment is not regarded as a residential care home for supplementary benefit purposes.

Departmental Managers (Accounting)

Mr. Wainwright asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what accounting developments are being made in his Department to give line managers better information about the cost and condition of the capital assets they are managing.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke [*pursuant to his reply,* 18 March, c. *381*]: The budgetary control system under development in our Department provides line managers with regular information about expenditure on capital assets and on their associated running costs. We have just completed our own feasibility study on the introduction of an assets register for computers, and are awaiting the results of a study by the Management and Personnel Office into assets registers for other types of capital assets.

The present procedures for managing capital in the National Health Service, and the part played by the accounting system, have recently been reviewed by a working group of the Association of Health Service Treasurers on which our Department and the Treasury are also represented. I understand that the association expects to send us the working party's report shortly, and we shall then be considering its proposals.

ENERGY

National Coal Board

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for Energy if he will introduce legislation to effect a capital reconstruction of the National Coal Board.

Mr. David Hunt: I have no present plans to do so.

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for Energy what is the revised deficit grant for the National Coal Board proposed for the current year following the end of the miners' strike; and how this figure compares with those for the last five years.

Mr. David Hunt: As regards the NCB's deficit in the current year, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my right hon. Friend has given today to my hon. Friend the Member for Erewash (Mr. Rost). The amounts of deficit grant accrued in the NCB's accounts in the past five years are:

	£ million
1979-80	159
1980-81	149
1981-82	428
1982-83	374
1983-84	875

Deep-Mined Coal

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for Energy what, in the light of the ending of the miners' strike, he estimates will be the production of deep-mined coal in 1985; and what are the revised projections for 1986-87.

Mr. David Hunt: Deep-mined coal production in 1985 will be seriously affected by the strike in the coal industry and its aftermath. I am not in a position to forecast the precise level of deep-mined production in 1985 or later years.

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for Energy what, in the light of the ending of the miners' strike, is the current average cost of producing deep-mined coal from National Coal Board pits.

Mr. David Hunt: The average cost of producing deep-mined coal has been distorted by the effects of industrial action in the coal industry since mid-1983, and will continue to be so affected for many months until the NCB has fully recovered from the effects of the strike. A meaningful figure for current average production costs is therefore impossible to determine. It is the Government's objective that the industry should reduce its average costs and return to profitability.

Coal Miners (Dismissals)

Mr. Arnold asked the Secretary of State for Energy what information he has as to the number of miners who have been dismissed for criminal damage to National Coal Board property; and if he will list the figures by area.

Mr. David Hunt: The dismissal and re-employment of its employees are matters for the National Coal Board. If any person considers that he has been unfairly dismissed, he has the right to take his case to an industrial tribunal.

NCB (Cash Requirement)

Mr. Rost asked the Secretary of State for Energy what the National Coal Board deficit and external cash requirement for 1984-85 will be; and how he intends that the deficit should be financed.

Mr. Peter Walker: The NCB is still assessing the financial damage inflicted on the industry by the strike. This will take some time to complete. It has told me, however, that its deficit on revenue account is likely to be at least £1,850 million. The aftermath of the strike will moreover cause additional losses for the board in 1985-86. The NCB's external cash requirement for 1984-85 is expected to be about £1,800 million — some £706 million in excess of the board's EFL.

The Government can meet £1,108 million of the revenue account deficit by grant within the ceiling set by the Coal Industry Act 1983. Decisions about the remainder will be taken when the outturn result for the year is more certain. However, the Government intend shortly to introduce a Bill to enable payments of deficit grant to the NCB to continue during the period of reconstruction following the strike, and my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury is presenting an Estimate to the House today which provides for payments of deficit grant to the NCB in 1985-86—totalling £1,000 million. This sum takes account of the outstanding amount of this year's deficit and may be sufficient to make some provision for the deficit which the NCB may incur in 1985-86. There will, however, need to be a re-assessment when a fuller picture of the NCB's financial prospects following the strike is available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Category A Prisoners

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many category A prisoners there are in England and Wales.

Mr. Mellor: As at 12 March 1985 there were 294 prisoners permanently categorised A and 141 provisionally categorised A.

Parole Statistics

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prisoners serving determinate sentences of over five years for offences of violence or trafficking in drugs were granted parole between January and June 1983 and 1984, respectively;

(2) how many prisoners serving determinate sentences of over five years for offences of violence or trafficking in drugs were considered for parole between January to June 1983 and 1984, respectively;

Mr. Mellor: The information available is given in the following table, which also revises the figures given in reply to a question from my hon. Friend the Member for Westminster, North (Mr. Wheeler) on 21 February 1985, at column 514, for the numbers within the scope of the policy announced on 30 November 1983, who were granted release eights months or more before the end of their sentence.

*Prisoners considered for parole who had been sentenced to more than five years for offences of violence or drug trafficking**

England and Wales *Number*

	January-June	
	1983	*1984*
Cases dealt with†	‡530	‡550
Prisoners granted release on parole licence‖ *of which*	162	55
Granted release eight months or more before the end of their sentence	123	14

* Those within the scope of the parole policy announced on 30 November 1983 with offences as defined under section 32 and Schedule 1 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982.

† Include those declining consideration.

‡ Approximate estimate.

‖ Release may have occurred in a later period.

Surveillance (Video Cameras)

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he has initiated to inform the chief constables of Kent and Sussex of his Department's guidelines on the use of video cameras for covert and speculative surveillance.

Mr. Giles Shaw: The criteria for the use of equipment in police surveillance operations, and the procedures for their authorisation, are set out in the Home Office guidelines which were issued to all chief constables in England and Wales on 19 December 1984. These guidelines are considerably more detailed and rigorous than the guidance issued in 1977, which they replace.

Prisoners and Sentencing Policy

Mr. Irving asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the current prison population and what proportion this represents of total prison capacity; whether he has any proposals to seek to reduce the number of imprisonable offences within the context of petty crime; what is his long-term policy on imprisonment; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Mellor: The prison population on 8 March 1985 was 45,198, nearly 16 per cent. above the certified normal accommodation.

My right hon. and learned Friend has no present proposals to remove imprisonment as the maximum penalty for minor offences which are currently imprisonable. This would be unlikely to have any significant effect on the prison population.

We support the view reflected in judgments given by the Court of Appeal that the most serious offences, especially of violence, call for long periods in custody, but otherwise a custodial sentence should be avoided where possible and, if unavoidable, should be for the shortest period which is reasonable in the circumstances of the case. Among the measures which we have taken to encourage the appropriate use of non-custodial measures are the enactment in the Criminal Justice Act 1982 of strengthened non-custodial powers for the courts and the provision of additional resources for the probation service to enable more offenders to be dealt with satisfactorily in the community.

The recent increase in the prison population is attributable in large measure to an increase in the number of prisoners awaiting trial. The measures which my right hon. and learned Friends the Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary are pursuing to tackle court delay have the object, among others, of reducing time spent on remand in custody. We have also brought forward proposals, in the Prosecution of Offences Bill, for a system of statutory time limits on the period before trial.

Our prison building programme is designed to provide enough accommodation for those who have to be imprisoned. With its expansion and acceleration, we have the prospect of achieving an end to overcrowding by the end of the decade.

Community Service

Mr. Irving asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration he has given to extending community service into the area of civil defence; whether he has had any discussions or received any proposals on this matter; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Mellor: I share my hon. Friend's interest in securing that work done by offenders under community service orders should be as useful and constructive as possible, but I doubt whether it would be practicable to encourage probation committees to extend the schemes into the area of civil defence. My right hon. and learned Friend has received no proposals to do so.

Palace of Westminster (Members' Access)

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will call for a report from the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis as to the orders given to his officers regarding enforcement of the Sessional Order of the House to the Metropolitan police regarding access to the Palace of Westminster by hon. Members; and if he will make a statement on the substance of the report.

Mr. Giles Shaw: In furtherance of the Sessional Orders the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis gives the following directions to his officers under section 52 of the Metropolitan Police Act 1839:

> "(1) That they shall disperse all assemblies or processions of persons causing or likely to cause obstruction or disorder on any day on which Parliament is sitting within the area specified hereunder:—
>
> > East side of the River Thames between Waterloo and Vauxhall Bridges, Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria Street (between Vauxhall Bridge Road and Buckingham Palace Road, Grosvenor Gardens, Grosvenor Place, Piccadilly, Coventry Street, New Coventry Street, Leicester Square (north side), Cranbourn Street, Long Acre, Bow Street, Wellington Street, crossing Strand and Victoria Embankment to Waterloo Bridge.
> >
> > Provided that processions may be routed along the thoroughfares named except Victoria Embankment west of Waterloo Bridge.
>
> (2) That they shall prevent or remove any other cause of obstruction within the said area so that every facility shall be afforded for the free passage of Peers and Members to and from the Houses of Parliament on any day on which Parliament is sitting."

If my hon. Friend has a particular problem in mind I invite him to write to me.

MI5 (Director General)

Mr. Winnick asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will arrange for the newly appointed director general of MI5, to have an annual meeting with hon. Members.

Mr. Brittan: No.

NATIONAL FINANCE

Independent Schools (Tax Rebates)

60. **Mr. Leigh** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if Her Majesty's Government will make it policy that tax rebates be given to those parents who send their children to independent schools.

Mr. Moore: I have noted my hon. Friend's suggestion.

Retirement Benefit Schemes

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the current value of the funds held by private schemes to provide retirement benefits for the self-employed and for employees entitled to subscribe to such schemes with the benefit of tax exemption; and what is the value of the funds held for employees in approved private sector occupational schemes.

Mr. Moore: I regret the delay in replying. Total net assets of superannuation funds established by private sector employers were about £62·5 billion at the end of 1983. In addition, some 40 per cent. of the £95·9 billion net assets of long-term insurance funds is estimated to relate to pension business, including personal pensions. I regret that it is not possible to provide a reliable estimate of the value of assets corresponding to personal pensions. In 1983, however, about 20 per cent. of premiums received by life assurance companies in respect of pension business related to personal pensions.

Venture Capital and Business Expansion Schemes

Mr. Conway asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many applications for tax allowance under the venture capital scheme have been made from the Shrewsbury and Atcham area;

(2) how many applications for tax relief under the business expansion scheme have been made from the Shrewsbury and Atcham area.

Mr. Moore: I regret that the information required to answer these questions is not available centrally.

Social Security (Taxation)

Mr. Deakins asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the change since 1978-79 in receipts from the taxation of social security benefits.

Mr. Moore: Estimates of the yield of income tax on current grants from general Government to the personal sector (in effect the yield from those social security benefits liable to tax) are shown for each calendar year to 1983 in table 9.6 of the 1984 edition of "UK National Accounts" (the CSO Blue Book). In this table, tax in respect of current grants is calculated by applying the individual's average rate of tax (that is the ratio of total tax due to total income liable to tax) to his or her receipt of taxable grants and summing over taxpayers.

Infrastructure (Investment)

Mr. Wrigglesworth asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his latest estimate of the cost per job of additional public investment in the infrastructure.

Mr. Peter Rees: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's reply to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Perry Barr (Mr. Rooker) on 9 January at column 442.

Smuggling (Prosecutions)

Mr. Hill asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give for each of the last five years, expressed as percentages, the number of successful prosecutions for smuggling in relation to the number of travellers using United Kingdom ports of entry.

Mr. Hayhoe: I regret that this information is not available. Local Customs and Excise staff throughout the United Kingdom prosecute many minor smuggling offences. A central record of the number of successful prosecutions for smuggling is not kept for reasons of cost.

Hot Take-away Food (VAT)

Mr. Tom Cox asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the amount of revenue received from value added tax on hot take-away food.

Mr. Hayhoe: I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 12 November to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Corbett) at column *89*.

Development Land Tax (Claim Costs)

Mr. Heddle asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish in the *Official Report (a)* the total cost incurred by the Development Land Tax Office in pursuing claim No. DLT/14144/217/84; and if he will publish the breakdown on a Department by Department basis.

Mr. Moore: Details of the time spent by Inland Revenue staff on the cited case are not now available and no reliable estimate of cost can be given.

Customs and Excise Sales (Criteria)

Mr. Heddle asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria are used by Her Majesty's Customs and Excise when selling by public auction or tender goods which have been seized from countries outside the European Economic Community which have exceeded the legal quota or for other reasons.

Mr. Hayhoe: It is the policy of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise to sell all seized goods which are considered to be in a saleable condition. Goods in excess of quota are sold subject to the condition that they are exported outside the European Community. Otherwise conditions are applied only if required by the nature of the goods, for example, the appropriate certificate or licence must be held for firearms and ammunition.

Taxation

Mr. Straw asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish in the *Official Report* tables showing *(a)* the proportion in percentage terms, *(b)* the amount in current prices, and *(c)* the amount in constant 1984-85 prices of personal income taken by taxation and rates for the year 1985-86, taking account of any changes announced in his Budget statement and any previously announced changes, and for each of the years 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 for each level of average earnings, each category of taxpayer, and each category of taxation and rates, in the manner of the answer of 21 March 1984, *Official Report*, columns *480-86*.

Mr. Moore: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Nationalised Industries Legislation (Proposals)

Mr. Hardy asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he took in preparing his document on nationalised industries legislation of the effect of the proposals contained therein *(a)* on the facilitation of privatisation, *(b)* on the promotion of commercial services or *(c)* on the promotion of the consumer interest.

Mr. Peter Rees: The proposals in the document are fully consistent with established Government policy in all these areas. As the document makes clear, the legislative proposals are intended to allow the privatisation of appropriate activities, and to encourage those industries remaining in the public sector to develop as successful, commercially oriented businesses. I believe this will be of significant benefit to their customers.

Mr. Hardy asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he proposes to publish a White Paper to present the proposals which are suggested in the recent document he issued on nationalised industry legislation.

Mr. Peter Rees: No final decisions have been taken on the timing and content of any legislation. It is premature, therefore, to consider whether a White Paper is appropriate.

Mr. Hardy asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of which nationalised industries further legislation is required to allow privatisation to be effected.

Mr. Peter Rees: The proposed legislation will contain no powers to wind up existing corporations or to change their status. Full privatisation of an entire industry will therefore continue to require appropriate primary legislation.

Mr. Hardy asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the interests of the consumer will receive any clear and direct consideration before a nationalised industry is required to comply with any financial target set by his Department under the terms of his document on nationalised industry legislation.

Mr. Peter Rees: No decisions have been taken on the form and content of any legislation on financial targets. Successive Governments have considered financial targets to be a principal element of the framework within which nationalised industries operate. This framework is designed to promote the efficient allocation and use of resources to the benefit of all, including consumers.

Mr. Hardy asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the proposals contained in the document on nationalised industries legislation will assist the achievement of more commercial operations by the nationalised industries.

Mr. Peter Rees: The proposals in the consultation document are intended to result in clear guidelines within which those industries remaining in the public sector would have freedom to operate as successful, commercial businesses. I would expect clarity in these matters to benefit the industries themselves, their customers, and the nation as a whole.

Mr. Hardy asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what direct benefit he expects to accrue to the consumer if he implements the proposals contained in his suggested proposals for nationalised industries legislation.

Mr. Peter Rees: It is in the consumers' interest that public sector industries should operate as efficient and successful businesses. Our proposals are directed toward achieving that end.

Mr. Hardy asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what response has so far been received in regard to the proposals contained in the document concerning nationalised industries legislation; and what steps he is taking to ensure that the views of consumers are obtained.

Mr. Peter Rees: Formal responses from 30 organisations and individuals have so far been received in the Treasury. These include comments from most nationalised industries and from a number of consumer bodies. The consultation document was freely available and each of the national nationalised industry consumer councils as well as the National Consumer Council has seen copies of it.

Spirits (Excise Duty)

Mr. Donald Stewart asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue arose from excise duty on spirits in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what part of the total came from duty on Scotch whisky.

Mr. Lawson: Spirits duty receipts amounted to £1,702 million in 1983-84, of which it is estimated that a little under half was attributable to Scotch whisky.

Sterling Exchange Rate

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will bring up to date the figures given in his written reply of 19 December, *Official Report*, column *188*, to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby on the rate of exchange between the pound sterling and the control reference point of the exchange rate mechanism.

Mr. Ian Stewart: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Cash Limits

Mr. Skeet asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide details of the cash limits set for 1985-86.

Mr. Peter Rees The cash limits on voted expenditure are listed in table A1 of the summary and guide to 1985-86 Supply Estimates (Cmnd 9450). The cash limits on local authority capital spending and other non-voted expenditure are given in the table.

*Non Voted Cash Limits 1985-86**

Cash block	*Department*	*Description of expenditure*	*Cash limit £ million*
BOE	Bank of England	Bank of England administration costs in respect of note issue, exchange equalisation account and debt management	80·6
DOE/LA1	Department of the Environment	Capital expenditure in England by local authorities on roads and transport, housing, schools, further education and teacher training, personal social services and other environmental services	1,911·3
DOE/NT1	Department of the Environment	Capital expenditure in England by new towns on housing, roads, commercial and industrial investment and certain water services	*−14·4
DOE/HC1	Department of the Environment	Capital expenditure in England on housing financed through the Housing Corporation	605·0
DOE/UA1	Department of the Environment	External financing requirements of Urban Development Corporations, capital expenditure on the Urban Programme and derelict land reclamation	363·4
HO/LA1	Home Office	Capital expenditure by local authorities on police, courts and probation	123·5
NID 1	Northern Ireland Departments	Services analogous to Great Britain services covered by cash limits	2,189·0
SO/LA1	Scottish Office	Capital expenditure in Scotland by local authorities on roads and transport, water and sewerage, general services, urban programme, police and social work, schools, further education and teacher training	409·6
SO/LA2	Scottish Office	Capital expenditure in Scotland on housing by local authorities, new towns, the Scottish Special Housing Association and on schemes financed by the Housing Corporation, and industrial and commercial investment by new towns	416·9
WO/LA1	Welsh Office	Capital expenditure in Wales by local authorities, new towns and the Housing Corporation on roads and transport, housing, schools, further education and teacher training, personal social services, and other environmental services and by the Land Authority for Wales.	275·8
HO/MP1	Home Office	Expenditure by the Metropolitan Police on manpower, pay, pensions, premises, transport and other running costs	763·2
		Total	7123·9

* The cash limit is net of receipts, which are expected to exceed capital expenditure in 1985-86.

Value Added Tax

Mr. Robert B. Jones asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement about the payment to the European Communities of non-value added tax own resouces collected in February.

Mr. Ian Stewart: In accordance with article 10(2) of Council Regulation 2891/77, the Commission has invited member states to pay on 20 March instead of 19 April non-VAT own resources collected in February. These own resources consist of agricultural, sugar and isoglucose levies and customs duties. The Government are complying with this request.

An amount not exceeding £62 million will be paid on 20 March; the payment of levies and duties on 19 April 1985 which is made directly from the Consolidated Fund under section 2(3) of the European Communities Act 1972 will be reduced by an appropriate amount. There will, therefore, be a transfer of expenditure from 1985-86 to 1984-85 but no net addition overall.

Civil List (Payments)

Mr. Wood asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the total amounts payable under the Civil List Acts in the financial year 1985-86 and the total amounts payable to the royal family in the calendar years 1984 and 1985.

Mr. Lawson: The total amount proposed for the financial year 1985-86 is £5,327,000 comprising £5,017,000 payable directly from the Consolidated Fund and £310,000 as provision for the royal trustees from the Vote for Economic and Financial Administration: Treasury (Class XIII, Vote 4). These sums compare respectively with £5,117,000, £5,017,000 and £100,000 for the financial year 1984-85. The information on amounts payable to the royal family in the present and previous calendar year is as follows:

	1984 £	*1985* £
The Queen's Civil List	3,850,000	3,976,200
HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother	334,400	345,300
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh	186,500	192,600
HRH The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips	116,200	120,000
HRH The Prince Andrew	20,000	20,000
HRH The Prince Edward	20,000	20,000
HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon	113,100	116,800
HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester	45,800	47,300
HRH The Duke of Gloucester	91,000	94,000
HRH The Duke of Kent	123,000	127,000
HRH Princess Alexandra, Mrs Angus Ogilvy	117,000	120,900
TOTAL	5,017,000	5,180,100
Refunded by Her Majesty The Queen	331,000	341,900
	4,686,000	4,838,200

Note: The increase in total is 3·25 per cent.

Notes on payments to the Royal Family

1. These figures combine the sums payable directly from the Consolidated Fund with the supplements provided by the Royal Trustees. Strict cash limits criteria have been applied to the figures for 1985.

2. Sums of £20,000 a year are payable from the Consolidated Fund in respect of their royal highnesses the Prince Andrew and the Prince Edward from the dates when they attained the age of 18. (19 February 1978 and 10 March 1982 respectively). An order was made by Her Majesty under section 4 of the Civil List Act 1952 limiting the annual amount to be paid to the Prince Edward from 1 January 1983 to £8,000.

3. Her Majesty paid £331,000 into the Consolidated Fund in respect of payments made in 1984 to members of the royal family whose expenses are met under section 3 of the Civil List Act 1972: a similar payment of £341,900 will be made for 1985.

Married Women (Investment Income)

Mrs. McCurley asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters and representations he has received on the taxation of a married woman's investment income.

Mr. Moore [*pursuant to his reply,* 18 March 1985]: I receive an average of four to five letters a month on this subject. I have recently received 130 letters as a result of recent press coverage of the issue.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Teachers (Pay)

19. **Mrs. Rumbold** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many children have been affected by strikes by the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers since 26 February.

Sir Keith Joseph: The 27,000 primary and secondary schools maintained by 104 local education authorities in England and Wales cater for about 8·3 million pupils and employ about 420,000 full-time teachers. Comprehensive information about the extent and effects of recent industrial action in these schools is not available centrally. It is however estimated that over 1 million children have been deprived of some lessons as a result of the selective strikes and other forms of disruptive action called by the NUT and the NAS/UWT. The Government deplore the fact that children's education is being disrupted in this way.

24. **Mr. John Mark Taylor** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make a statement on the teachers' pay dispute.

26. **Mr. Allan Roberts** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make a statement on the teachers' pay dispute.

38. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make a statement on the teachers' dispute affecting some schools.

49. **Mr. Terry Lewis** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make a statement about teachers' pay.

50. **Mr. McQuarrie** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what further progress has been made towards resolving of the teachers' dispute.

Sir Keith Joseph: I refer the hon. Members to the answers I have given today to my hon. Friends the Members for Norwich, North (Mr. Thompson) and for Mitcham and Morden (Mrs. Rumbold).

25. **Mr. Boyes** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science by how much the real level of teachers' pay has increased since 1979 compared with average non-manual earnings.

Sir Keith Joseph: The cumulative total of pay rises awarded to school teachers since April 1979, up to and including April 1984, is 69 per cent. Teachers' average salaries during that period have increased by 79 per cent. (the higher increase in average salaries is explained by the effect of incremental drift in addition to annual pay rises). Over the same period the average weekly earnings (including overtime) of non-manual employees have increased by 86 per cent. while increases in the retail price index amount to 63 per cent.

30. **Mr. Flannery** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he has any plans to discuss the teachers' industrial action with the employers' side of the Burnham committee; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph: I discussed the nature, extent and impact of the industrial action called by the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers when I met representatives of the Council of Local Education Authorities on 6 March. We noted the selective nature of the strikes and the varied impact of other forms of action in different parts of the country. I share the employers' deep concern that the education of children is being disrupted.

40. **Mr. Yeo** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what representations he has received from parents regarding strike action by teachers.

Sir Keith Joseph: I have received about 50 letters from parents drawing attention to the effects the industrial action by school teachers is having on their children's education. I am to meet representatives of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations about this on 20 March.

40. **Mr. Greenway** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make a statement on the salary and conditions of service of teachers.

44. **Mr. Chapman** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make a statement about the future pay and conditions of the teaching profession.

Sir Keith Joseph: Although discussions between the employers and the teacher associations on the school teachers' pay structure and related conditions of service ceased last December, I remain ready to receive and consider reform proposals. Were I to find any proposals which might be forthcoming negotiable, educationally acceptable and affordable, I would put them to my Cabinet colleagues for their collective consideration. I cannot predict the outcome. As the prospects of negotiating an early acceptable and affordable structure reform package seem increasingly difficult, I shall continue to consider other avenues for improving the professional development and performance of teachers and the management of the teacher force.

58. **Mr. Sedgemore** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what advice he has given to the Burnham further education joint working party on salary structure or the availability of additional resources to meet the cost of any proposals.

Sir Keith Joseph: My views on these matters have been made clear by my representatives in the various discussions and in a letter dated 7 February sent to the leader of the management panel of the Burnham Further Education Committee. I repeated the same views when I met the leader at his request on 15 February. The text of the letter is as follows:

> As your talks on the FE pay structure have now got under way, I think it would be helpful if I set out where I stand.
>
> When we had our useful talk last November, I made clear that the Government would welcome an effort to improve the

flexibility and efficiency of the FE service and that I was very willing to see all options examined. But at the same time I asserted — and repeat this now — that I believe that these improvements should be and must be financed from savings arising from the greater efficiency of the service. Although the Audit Commission's investigation of local authority further and higher education is still to be finally written up, I understand that their report will be drawing attention to considerable scope which they believe exists for more cost-effective delivery of substantial parts of the service. Such efficiency savings as may be obtained should, I consider, be deployed to general benefit, including the customers of the service and those (including Central Government) who pay for it: productivity gains should not be allowed to accrue uniquely to teaching staff in the form of increased pay.

I recognise the difficult nature of the discussions ahead and I did not want to make life even more difficult by allowing there to be any uncertainty about my position.

Outer London Boroughs (School Inspectors)

20. **Mr. Dykes** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many of Her Majesty's inspectors of schools cover schools in the outer London boroughs.

Sir Keith Joseph: Thirty-two of Her Majesty's inspectors have particular assignments in relation to schools in outer London boroughs, but inspections of these schools also involve other members of Her Majesty's Inspectorate, which is deployed nationally.

Higher Education

21. **Mr. Alton** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what proposals he has to increase the proportion of non-standard entrants to higher education.

Mr. Brooke: Decisions about whom to admit to higher education courses are for individual institutions and their validating bodies. But the Government's projections of further demand assume continuing increases in the number of mature entrants to higher education, and the National Advisory Body's academic plans for the non-university sector are intended to promote part-time participation. Many students in these two overlapping categories are likely not to have the traditional entrance qualifications for higher education.

33. **Mr. Freud** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what was his Department's projected age participation rate and the actual rate for each year since 1979.

Mr. Brooke: The Robbins report, published in 1963, stated that by 1980 about 17 per cent. of the age group will be entering full-time higher education. The 1972 White Paper "A Framework for Expansion" suggested that by about 1981 about 22 per cent. of the 18-year-old age group would enter higher education. The latest published projections and the actual figures are set out in the following table:

	1979 *per cent.*	*1980* *per cent.*	*1981* *per cent.*	*1982* *per cent.*	*1983* *per cent.*	*1984* *per cent.*
Actuals (API)*	12·6	12·8	13·5	13·6	13·5	†13·8
1983 *Projection*						
RE99 (APR)					14·2	14·4
High variant					13·8	14·1
Low variant						
1984 RE100 (API)						14·6
Variant X						13·3
Variant Y						

* The age participation index (API) is defined as the number of young full-time and sandwich home initial entrants to higher education expressed as a percentage of half the total of 18 and 19-year-olds in the population. This measure has replaced the previously used age participation rate (APR) based solely upon 18-year-olds.

† Provisional estimate.

University Entrants (AS Levels)

22. **Mr. Beith** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what effect he expects the introduction of AS levels to have on university entrance procedures.

Mr. Dunn: My right hon. Friend hopes to anounce the Government's decision about AS levels before Easter. The universities have indicated strong support for the proposed new examination, together with a willingness to give it full recognition in their admission processes.

Voluntary Student Unions

23. **Sir William van Straubenzee** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he is yet in a position to make a statement about his intentions regarding voluntary student unions.

Mr. Brooke: My answer to a question on 22 January, at column 846, from my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Mr. Merchant) made it clear that the provisions for automatic membership of student unions can be amended only at the initiative of the governing bodies of the institutions concerned or by legislation; and that my right hon. Friend has no present intention of introducing legislation for this purpose. The Government sympathise with the concern expressed by hon. Members about the activities of student unions; the discussions to which I have referred today in my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Mr. Latham) bear directly upon the issues that have generated this concern.

European Community Young Workers Exchange Programme

27. **Mr. Nicholas Baker** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he has received any representations about specific disadvantages encountered

by young British workers through lack of fluency in languages other than English from participation in the European Community young workers exchange programme.

Sir Keith Joseph: No. All projects in the third exchange programme, which begins this year, are eligible for financial support covering the cost of language tuition.

City and Guilds Institute

28. **Mr. Holt** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what plans he has to co-ordinate the curricula and examinations of the City and Guilds Institute with present examination boards.

Sir Keith Joseph: I have invited all the examining bodies concerned to contribute to the preparation of draft criteria for pre-vocational and vocationally oriented examination courses taken by pupils during the years of compulsory schooling. I hope to make an announcement shortly.

Open University

29. **Mr. Alexander** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what is to be the role of the Open University in the education of people in the new technologies.

Sir Keith Joseph: The Open University will continue to have an important role to play in this area through its undergraduate and continuing education programmes, and in particular, through its professional, industrial and commercial updating courses.

32. **Mr. Sumberg** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he has made a decision upon the future funding of the Open University; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph: The Open University was informed of its grant for the academic year 1985 and indicated grants for 1986 and 1987 on 22 February. I informed the House of this on 27 February, at column 180, in response to questions from the hon. Member for Cambridgeshire, North-East (Mr. Freud) and my hon. Friend the Member for Ealing, North (Mr. Greenway). Copies of the report and notification of grant have been placed in the Library.

39. **Mr. Maclennan** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will meet the vice-chancellor of the Open University to discuss the first report of its visiting committee.

Sir Keith Joseph: I have no plans to do so.

47. **Mr. Bruce** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what part he envisages the Open University to have in his plans for higher education.

59. **Mr. Maxton** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make a statement about the Open University.

Sir Keith Joseph: I refer the hon. Members to the reply I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Mr. Bennett).

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what support he is giving to the Open University to ensure that resources in the area of education for handicapped and disabled persons are protected; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government value the opportunities provided by the Open University for the disabled. Decisions on the level of resources the university should devote to services for the disabled are for the university to make. The visiting committee recommended that the university should protect those services; the Government have played their part by responding positively to the visiting committee's recommendations in respect of alleviations to previously indicated grant levels.

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what assessment he has made of the cuts in activity which will arise from a projected grant in 1987 of £53·30 million to the Open University; if he will reconsider his decision in this matter; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph: The indicated grant for 1987 is £59·3 million. This grant was determined by the Government after consideration of the visiting committee's report on the university's plans to adjust to reduced levels of funding, and is in line with the committee's recommendation that the university should have an extra year to make the adjustment. The grant is indicated only, and is subject to revision in forthcoming public expenditure surveys. I have asked the visiting committee for a further report on the university's plans.

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will give the number of graduates from the Open University since its inception; if he will give the current number of undergraduates; what is the number of students waiting to gain admission to the Open University; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph: Approximately 69,300 students have qualified for an Open University BA degree since its inception. The number of undergraduates in 1984 was 66,760. There were 17,600 applicants in 1984 for entry in 1985 who did not receive an offer of a place. The university operates a policy of offering places in the order of application, and those not offered a place in 1985 will be given first choice for a place in 1986.

Primary Schools

31. **Mr. Robert Atkins** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make a statement on his policy on primary school closures or amalgamations.

Mr. Dunn: My right hon. Friend's policies towards school closures, including amalgamations, are set out in circulars 2/80, 2/81 and 4/82, copies of which I sent my hon. Friend last November. Every proposal that comes to my right hon. Friend for decision, whether for primary or for secondary schools, is considered on its merits in the light of the circumstances of the case and of his published policies; the latter include the need to seize the educational and financial benefits to be gained by removing surplus school places from use.

Further Education College Lecturers

34. **Mr. Litherland** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what progress has been made in the talks on a new salary structure for further education college lecturers.

Sir Keith Joseph: Expressions of willingness to review pay and related matters were exchanged last November and repeated in February. Those were necessarily in general terms. I am not aware that matters have progressed beyond that first stage to the detailed examination of specific proposals.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

35. **Mr. Rowe** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he is satisfied that schools will be able to provide candidates for the new General Certificate of Secondary Education examination with sufficient textbooks and other teaching material, particularly in English, in time for the first examination.

Mr. Dunn: The Department does not foresee the need for wholesale replacement of existing materials. In most cases, the need will be, rather, for existing materials and the ways in which they are used to be adapted over time in the light of the new examination system and the other curricular developments which are constantly taking place. Successive RSG settlements have provided scope for local education authorities to improve their provision of school books and equipment in line with the priority that the Government have consistently accorded to this area. The 1985-86 settlement, for example, would allow most authorities, provided that other expenditure is firmly controlled, to immprove levels of provision per pupil compared to 1982-83, the latest year for which firm spending figures are available and one which showed a significant increase in levels of provision of books and equipment. Individual authorities will undoubtedly wish to take account of the changes in the national examination system when reaching decisions on the allocation of resources. The Government consider, too, that the manuals and videos which the Secondary Examinations Council and the examining groups are preparing for all secondary schools and colleges as part of the in-service training programme will make a major contribution to the necessary updating of teaching materials.

Children (Special Needs)

36. **Mr. Tony Lloyd** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will make available resources to implement fully the Education Act 1981 concerning the integration of children with special needs into ordinary schools.

Mr. Dunn: The Government's expenditure plans for 1985-86 allow for an increase in the administrative costs in implementing the Act and for an increase in the number of educational psychologists employed by local authorities. It is for LEAs to decide how to deploy the resources available to them.

Adult Education

37. **Mr. Dubs** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what representations he has received about cuts in adult education provision in Inner London.

Sir Keith Joseph: Since 1 September 1984 the Department has received about 260 letters concerned solely or mainly with the implications of rate limitation for the provision of adult education in Inner London, and two petitions on this subject containing between them approximately 16,000 signatures.

Inner City Schools

41. **Mr. Marlow** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will introduce legislation to remove some inner city schools from the maintained sector and to place them under alternative forms of control.

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government have no plans in this area.

Special Education and Teacher Training

43. **Mr. Ashley** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he proposes to make any changes in the mandatory requirements for the qualifications of teachers concerned with special education.

Mr. Dunn: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Wales are considering a recommendation by the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers that the mandatory requirement for teachers of classes of deaf, partially hearing or blind pupils to hold a specialist qualification should be removed. My right hon. Friends will announce their decision in due course.

46. **Mr. Pike** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science when he intends to reply to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers' report on special education and teacher training.

48. **Mr. Fisher** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science when he will be replying to the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers' report on the training of teachers for children with learning difficulties.

Mr. Dunn: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Wales will announce their decisions in due course.

Science Expenditure

45. **Mr. Strang** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what representations he has received in the last two months about the Government's planned level of expenditure on science.

Mr. Brooke: My right hon. Friend has received about 50 letters.

Natural Environment Research Council

51. **Mr. Ron Davies** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will list the total sources of finance for the Natural Environment Research Council.

Mr. Brooke: The sources of finance for the Natural Environment Research council for the financial year 1983-84 (the latest available figures) were as follows:

	£ million
1. Grant-in-aid from the Science Budget	62·5
2. *Commissioned Research:*	
Department of Energy	8·3
Department of the Environment	4·8
Overseas Development Administration	2·9
Department of Trade & Industry	2·5
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	2·1
European Communities	0·7
Nature Conservancy Council	0·2

	£ million
Others	2·2
	23·7
3. Miscellaneous sources	2·7
Total	88·9

National Youth Advisory Council

52. **Mr. Lawler** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science when it is proposed that the National Youth Advisory Council will be established.

Mr. Dunn: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for City of London and Westminster, South (Mr. Brooke) on 8 February, at column 723.

Teacher Assessment

53. **Mr. Eggar** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether it is his policy to seek to provide a link between teacher assessment and individual pay awards.

Sir Keith Joseph: I favour such a link in order to relate teachers' pay more directly to the quality of their performance. But teacher appraisal can serve a variety of other useful purposes supporting the professional development of teachers and the most effective management of the teacher force. If progress on appraisal in the context of pay negotiations is too slow—and all the evidence points that way—it is my duty to explore other possible ways of making progress.

Pupil Costs

54. **Mr. Penhaligon** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what is the current cost per year of educating a child in a primary school for *(a)* the Inner London education authority and *(b)* Cornwall.

Mr. Dunn: The net cost of educating a primary school pupil in 1982-83, the latest year for which full data are available, was £1,144 in the Inner London education authority and £616 in Cornwall.

Further Education

55. **Mr. Hardy** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what further action he proposes to take to encourage young people to stay at school beyond the statutory leaving age.

Sir Keith Joseph: The policies outlined in my speech at Sheffield last year are aimed at improving the quality of education offered by schools to pupils of all ages. These policies include improving the quality of the teaching force, seeking broad national agreement on the objectives of the school curriculum, introducing records of achievement and promoting better examination courses. The most effective encouragement to young people to remain in school after the period when attendance is compulsory is to ensure that what schools provide is relevant to pupils' needs and aspirations.

School Closures

56. **Mr. Simon Hughes** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many school closure requests from local education authorities he agreed to in 1982, 1983 and 1984; and how many he refused.

Mr. Dunn: The information requested is as follows:

Year	*Approvals*	*Rejections*
1982	214	26
1983	246	39
1984	213	20

Rate Support Grant Settlement

57. **Mr. Wigley** asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what recent representations he has received from local education authorities about the level of the 1985-86 rate support grant settlement.

Mr. Dunn: My right hon. Friend met elected members of the local authority associations last October to discuss the level of local authority expenditure on education in England to underlie the 1985-86 RSG settlement. This meeting was the culmination of detailed discussions between officials of the Department and of the local authority associations. In addition, the Department receives many letters from individual local authorities on expenditure issues in each financial year.

University Academic Staff

Mr. Pawsey asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science (1) what is the average amount, per person, paid out by universities to buy out academic staff; and how that compares with University Grants Committee guidelines;

(2) what was the total amount paid out by universities to buy out academic staff; and how that figure compares with forecast.

Mr. Brooke: The total amount paid by universities and reimbursed by the University Grants Committee in redundancy and premature retirement costs for academic staff totalled £93 million up to the end of January 1985. The average amount paid per person was £28,276. Both these figures exclude rebate paid by the Department of Employment under the statutory redundancy payments scheme. Expenditure has been reimbursed by the committee only where it was certified as being in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Government and the UGC. The costs are broadly in line with those originally forecast by the UGC. In addition to these costs the cost of actuarial strain on the universities' superannuation scheme is being met by additional employers' contributions to the scheme.

Solvent Misuse

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he has any evidence to suggest that solvents generally available in secondary schools are misused by pupils.

Mr. Dunn: No, but the Department has issued guidance to schools on the safe-keeping of such substances.

Assisted Places Scheme

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what evidence is available to his Department concerning a correlation between the relevant income of parents of pupils entering the assisted places scheme and those pupils who did not formerly attend a maintained school.

Mr. Dunn: Information is not collected in the form required.

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science (1) if he will indicate the criteria employed when assessing a request from a school participating in the assisted places scheme for relaxation of the 60 per cent. requirement;

(2) if he will list any requests for relaxation of the requirement that 60 per cent. of pupils winning an assisted place must come from the maintained sector which have been refused by him for each year since the introduction of the scheme.

Mr. Dunn: The 60 per cent. rule applies not to each intake but to the body of assisted pupils as a whole. To be granted a relaxation, a school must be able to demonstrate that it has made reasonable efforts to meet the rule or, in an individual case, that the relaxation is to meet particular hardship. No request has so far been refused. Where the difficulty is other than short-term, however, the school's quota of places is renegotiated.

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what information is collected by his Department concerning the academic performance and university entrance record of pupils educated under the assisted places scheme.

Mr. Dunn: The academic standards of participating schools are monitored, but details of the performance of individuals pupils are not collected.

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he will list in the *Official Report* the number of children winning an assisted place in each year of the scheme's operation in the following age groups and indicate the percentage of the total number of assisted places pupils each figure represents and the percentage change involved in each case *(a)* 11 to 13 years, *(b)* 13 to 16 years and *(c)* 16 to 18 years.

Mr. Dunn: The information requested is as follows:

	Age 11-13	*Age 14-15.*	*Sixth form*	*Total*
School year 1981-82	3,660	—	525	4,185
Percentage	87		13	100
School year 1982-83	3,799	25	616	4,440
Percentage	85	1	14	100
School year 1983-84	4,093	54	745	4,892
Percentage	84	1	15	100
School year 1984-85	4,273	93	817	5,193
Percentage	82	2	16	100

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many schools participating in the assisted places scheme have been given increased quotas of pupils for each year since the introduction of the scheme.

Mr. Dunn: The redistribution of places to maximise the use of the available resources has led to increased quotas as follows:

School year	*Number of schools*
1982-83	32
1983-84	16
1984-85	17

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he will list the number of cases, with the year of decision, in which he has rejected proposed fee increases by schools participating in the assisted places scheme.

Mr. Dunn: In 1983, my right hon. Friend directed one school to charge a lower tuition fee for assisted pupils than it had proposed.

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science (1) what information is available to his Department as to the pupil-teacher ratio in secondary schools participating in the assisted places scheme;

(2) what studies are being undertaken by his Department to assess the proportion of *(a)* potential O-level candidates and *(b)* potential A-level candidates leaving the maintained sector for the assisted places scheme and the effects on the maintained schools so affected;

(3) how many places on the assisted places scheme remained unfilled in each year since the scheme's introduction for the following age-groups; and how many of the filled places represent cases where the 60 per cent. requirement has been relaxed in each case, for each of the following age groups: *(a)* 11 to 13 years, *(b)* 13 to 16 years and *(c)* 16 to 18 years;

(4) to what conclusions he has come concerning educational standards as a result of the assisted places scheme;

(5) how he estimates the marginal benefit accruing to a child educated under the assisted places scheme of the extra cost to his Department of so educating a child;

(6) what information he has as to the average income represented by fees paid by his Department under the assisted places scheme for those schools participating in the scheme for which the 60 per cent. requirement has been relaxed;

(7) pursuant to his reply to the hon. Member for Cambridgeshire, North-East of 11 March, *Official Report,* column *32,* if he will now give for each year of the operation of the assisted places scheme the names of schools which have been granted dispensation from the 60 per cent. rule and the percentage of assisted places pupils formerly attending maintained schools in each case;

(8) if he will list in the *Official Report* the fee income to each school participating in the assisted places scheme as a result of the scheme; and what percentage of each school's fee income this represents for 1984-85;

(9) what criteria he uses to gauge how the quality of education available to pupils educated under the assisted places scheme exceeds that which is available to those pupils in the maintained sector.

Mr. Dunn: I shall reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what has been the average fee increase at schools participating in the assisted places scheme in each year since its introduction.

Mr. Dunn: The information requested is as follows:

School Year *Year*	*Average Annual fee* *£*	*Percentage increases over preceding year* *per cent.*
1981-82	1,323	—
1982-83	1,467	11
1983-84	1,637	12
1984-85	1,730	6

Non-Maintained Schools (Charitable Status)

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he plans to estimate and make available information on the revenue forgone as a consequence of the charitable status of the non-maintained sector of education.

Mr. Dunn: No.

Pupils (Statistics)

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he will list in the *Official Report* the proportions of pupils in comprehensive, secondary modern and grammar schools respectively, in each local education authority in 1979 and each subsequent year for which figures are available.

Mr. Dunn: I shall reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Drug Misuse

Mr. Sackville asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what steps he is taking to ensure that a larger proportion of teachers receive specialist training related to the problems of drug misuse.

Mr. Dunn: My right hon. Friend announced on 27 February initiatives for the issue of a booklet to teachers on the problems of drug misuse and the preparation of suitable curriculum material for use by both teachers and teacher trainers in a drug education programme. In addition, those concerned with organising regional in-service training courses, under a programme supported by the Department, have been encouraged to give priority to courses concerned with drug misuse.

Teacher Training

Mr. Madel asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what arrangements he intends for in-service teacher training; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph: As my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his Budget statement, additional resources amounting to £20 million in 1986-87 will be made available for in-service teacher training to promote developments across the curriculum of the kind related particularly to the technical and vocational education initiative. My right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Employment, Scotland and Wales and I are inviting the Manpower Services Commission to administer this training scheme. The scheme is planned to start in 1985-86 and the MSC is being asked to provide the £5 million necessary for this purpose from within its existing resources for that year.

The scheme will be an interim arrangement pending the introduction of a reformed system of funding for in-service teacher training. The Government have considered future arrangements for in-service teacher training in the light of a report last year by the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers. They share the view of the advisory committee that in-service teacher training needs to be planned more systematically. They consider that resources devoted to in-service training are not always being used to the best advantage and agree with the advisory committee that a radical change is needed in the funding and organisation of in-service training. Consultation on the committee's report has shown widespread support for the case for a new funding mechanism and for more systematic planning of in-service training. The Government have concluded that the most effective way of securing these improvements would be through the introduction of a new specific grant to support LEA expenditure on most aspects of in-service teacher training, including that expenditure currently supported through the in-service training pool as well as expenditure on national priority areas. They propose therefore to take an early opportunity to introduce legislation to extend existing powers to grant-aid in-service training. The new arrangements could not come into operation until the financial year 1987-88. The scheme for TVEI-related training announced today by my right hon. Friend will make a valuable contribution to in-service training in the interim period.

Engineering and Technology (Graduates)

Mr. Stern asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will take steps to increase the output of graduates in engineering and technology; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has today announced that the Government are to mount a £43 million programme over the next three years for the provision within higher education institutions of additional places in engineering and technology.

The costs will be contained within existing expenditure programmes, with contributions from the Departments of Trade and Industry, Employment and Energy and from the Scottish and Welsh Offices, as well as from my Department's programme.

I am discussing with the University Grants Committee and others which institutions should benefit from this programme, and I hope to be able to announce soon those institutions that will admit additional students during 1985-86. Further announcements about later years will follow.

This programme marks a substantial response to requests from industry for an increased output of graduates in engineering and technology. Perceived industrial worth and cost effectiveness will therefore be important criteria in determining the allocation of the programme between institutions.

We shall be looking to industry to demonstrate the value it attaches to the programme by offering concrete support in various ways, along the lines proposed by the IT Skills Shortages Committee, and we shall be discussing further with employers' representatives how this can be assured.

This programme is a substantial addition to the initiative I announced in December 1982, for a programme to provide some 5,000 additional places in IT-related subjects, and to the programme costing £14 million over three years which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland announced in November 1984 to increase the output of engineers and technologists from the Scottish central institutions.

The combined effect of these programmes will be to provide a substantial further stimulus to the output of engineers and technologists and hence to the economy.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 20 March 1985

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Disabled Persons

Mr. Haynes asked the hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed, as representing the House of Commons Commission, how many registered disabled people are employed in the service of the House.

Mr. Beith: The total number of registered disabled persons employed among the staff of the House for whom the Commission is responsible is seven. Other registered disabled people work in the House, but their employment is the responsibility of other agencies, such as the Department of the Environment.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Free School Meals

Mr. Andrew F. Bennett asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what was the proportion of schoolchildren in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools, expressed as a percentage, entitled to free school meals in each year since 1975, for each local education authority and for the country as a whole.

Mr. Dunn: Information is not available on the number of pupils entitled to a free school meal. The percentages of pupils taking free school meals in primary and secondary schools for the years 1978 to 1983 are given in the following tables. Information in this form is not available for the years 1975 to 1977.

Number of free pupil meals as a percentage of pupils present
Primary Schools

	1983 per cent.	*1982 per cent.*	*1981 per cent.*	*1980 per cent.*	*1979 per cent.*	*1978 per cent.*
Barking	17·2	16·3	14·1	12·8	13·2	16·0
Barnet	10·0	8·8	8·1	7·7	8·9	10·9
Bexley	9·6	8·7	6·6	1·7	7·8	8·5
Brent	18·5	16·7	14·0	13·0	13·7	14·6
Bromley	7·6	6·2	6·0	6·2	9·5	10·6
Croydon	9·6	8·3	7·3	9·3	13·4	15·3
Ealing	16·2	15·2	12·7	12·5	12·6	13·7
Enfield	9·1	8·7	8·0	6·9	6·8	7·7
Haringey	21·5	17·0	16·3	14·3	15·9	16·5
Harrow	8·0	7·0	6·6	5·8	6·1	6·9
Havering	8·2	7·5	6·8	6·1	6·6	8·3
Hillingdon	10·3	9·3	8·7	7·7	8·8	9·0
Hounslow	11·6	10·1	9·4	8·5	9·0	10·5
Kingston-upon-Thames	8·1	7·9	7·0	7·6	8·5	10·1
Merton	6·6	7·1	6·5	5·1	8·5	9·7
Newham	16·8	16·6	12·7	11·3	12·1	12·9
Redbridge	6·7	5·9	4·9	4·2	7·7	10·5
Richmond-upon-Thames	7·5	6·4	5·6	6·7	8·6	9·8
Sutton	6·5	6·0	5·3	4·5	10·9	12·5
Waltham Forest	21·2	16·6	15·2	12·4	12·5	11·7
ILEA	35·5	30·9	27·8	24·8	25·0	26·4
Birmingham	37·2	n/a	28·0	21·0	19·6	21·3
Coventry	29·5	26·3	23·3	18·0	18·0	20·0
Dudley	17·4	13·9	11·5	7·7	6·7	7·8
Sandwell	31·9	24·5	21·2	13·4	12·0	14·3
Solihull	14·8	13·3	9·6	6·7	12·9	13·9
Walsall	27·8	23·7	20·3	12·7	12·5	13·5
Wolverhampton	28·1	25·2	21·8	14·1	13·0	15·0
Knowsley	47·9	43·0	37·1	29·3	33·9	36·3
Liverpool	36·3	31·8	30·2	27·3	27·8	29·3
St. Helens	21·9	20·6	16·8	13·3	13·0	14·0
Sefton	19·1	16·9	14·0	11·7	16·1	18·8
Wirral	24·8	24·2	17·0	16·8	16·1	17·8
Bolton	23·5	21·8	18·3	14·1	14·1	17·6
Bury	14·9	12·3	10·0	7·2	10·7	13·5
Manchester	45·1	41·6	38·2	32·3	32·5	36·5
Oldham	28·7	27·0	21·1	12·8	16·7	18·0
Rochdale	27·9	26·4	21·3	16·4	15·6	19·7
Salford	35·0	30·0	26·2	23·4	23·5	24·3
Stockport	16·4	15·2	12·6	11·5	12·3	15·3
Tameside	24·8	21·0	19·5	14·8	15·0	16·8
Trafford	15·1	11·7	9·9	7·9	15·1	18·4
Wigan	20·3	17·5	15·0	11·5	12·7	15·4

	1983 *per cent.*	*1982* *per cent.*	*1981* *per cent.*	*1980* *per cent.*	*1979* *per cent.*	*1978* *per cent.*
Barnsley	19·4	16·7	13·2	10·7	11·6	15·1
Doncaster	21·4	18·5	16·1	12·0	10·8	13·2
Rotherham	19·7	15·5	13·3	10·1	11·3	13·8
Sheffield	22·4	19·0	16·3	10·5	10·7	11·9
Bradford	33·1	29·3	23·1	16·8	17·3	20·1
Calderdale	24·6	22·6	18·2	13·8	12·8	16·1
Kirklees	21·1	19·2	17·1	14·1	12·3	14·9
Leeds	21·5	20·4	17·8	14·5	14·4	16·8
Wakefield	18·4	17·5	15·6	11·2	10·8	13·0
Gateshead	27·8	25·9	23·5	18·8	18·7	21·9
Newcastle upon Tyne	38·1	33·8	30·9	27·1	26·5	30·5
North Tyneside	21·0	19·6	16·6	13·3	13·7	17·4
South Tyneside	26·7	23·4	20·5	17·4	17·2	19·1
Sunderland	31·6	28·2	25·4	20·6	20·2	21·8
Isles of Scilly	6·3	6·1	6·5	5·4	n/a	28·4
Avon	18·9	17·2	14·8	12·9	14·0	15·3
Bedfordshire	13·3	11·6	7·9	9·1	9·2	10·2
Berkshire	7·7	7·8	5·6	4·5	8·1	11·2
Buckinghamshire	9·4	5·3	6·1	5·2	6·6	7·5
Cambridgeshire	13·2	12·1	10·2	9·3	9·2	11·5
Cheshire	18·7	15·9	12·2	10·2	11·8	13·3
Cleveland	30·5	26·7	21·8	17·1	14·8	17·1
Cornwall	15·9	14·4	11·9	8·8	18·8	22·7
Cumbria	13·2	11·8	10·4	9·3	11·1	14·2
Derbyshire	16·6	14·9	12·5	9·0	9·3	11·5
Devon	14·6	13·6	12·4	9·4	15·5	18·4
Dorset	6·4	5·6	4·9	4·7	15·4	18·2
Durham	26·4	23·3	19·7	16·5	16·1	19·3
East Sussex	13·8	12·4	13·8	12·7	16·2	19·2
Essex	9·7	8·7	6·6	5·1	8·7	11·3
Gloucestershire	10·7	9·3	7·3	5·3	12·5	16·5
Hampshire	9·5	8·5	7·2	5·7	10·5	13·6
Hereford and Worcester	9·7	9·2	9·9	7·8	10·4	13·0
Hertfordshire	9·6	8·0	7·9	6·7	7·6	9·3
Humberside	25·9	13·0	13·5	11·8	10·5	12·1
Isle of Wight	16·9	14·2	11·3	8·8	12·0	14·8
Kent	11·1	9·6	7·9	6·9	10·0	12·1
Lancashire	21·7	19·4	15·2	11·5	13·8	15·6
Leicestershire	15·0	12·0	10·0	7·4	11·3	12·6
Lincolnshire	6·7	3·7	5·1	6·7	9·2	11·6
Norfolk	12·6	10·9	8·5	7·2	12·3	15·0
North Yorkshire	11·8	10·9	9·5	8·4	11·1	13·4
Northamptonshire	12·9	11·6	9·6	8·4	8·9	10·9
Northumberland	12·6	10·9	8·6	9·0	12·9	15·7
Nottinghamshire	20·4	17·6	15·5	10·5	13·3	15·5
Oxfordshire	8·1	7·7	6·6	4·8	8·8	10·7
Salop	17·0	14·9	12·0	10·9	11·4	12·4
Somerset	12·3	11·0	9·7	9·3	11·7	15·4
Staffordshire	13·7	11·6	8·7	5·7	9·8	11·7
Suffolk	10·2	8·6	7·3	5·4	11·6	14·6
Surrey	5·5	4·9	3·9	3·0	6·4	8·3
Warwickshire	11·7	9·3	7·1	5·4	8·5	10·2
West Sussex	7·5	6·7	5·6	4·2	10·2	12·3
Wiltshire	7·1	8·8	7·5	6·0	10·7	14·7
ENGLAND	17·9	15·2	13·4	10·9	12·9	15·2

Number of free pupil meals as a percentage of pupils present
In secondary schools

	1983 *per cent.*	*1982* *per cent.*	*1981* *per cent.*	*1980* *per cent.*	*1979* *per cent.*	*1978* *per cent.*
Barking	9·3	8·9	8·2	6·9	7·4	9·5
Barnet	7·7	7·2	5·7	7·0	7·0	8·1
Bexley	6·5	6·3	4·7	6·3	5·2	5·8
Brent	12·9	12·9	11·4	12·4	12·7	7·1
Bromley	5·9	5·4	4·6	4·9	7·5	8·4
Croydon	7·8	6·6	5·8	7·4	10·6	12·5
Ealing	15·5	13·4	12·2	11·5	11·8	13·9
Enfield	9·0	8·3	7·1	4·6	4·9	5·9
Haringey	18·5	16·6	13·1	11·5	12·3	14·0

	1983 *per cent.*	*1982* *per cent.*	*1981* *per cent.*	*1980* *per cent.*	*1979* *per cent.*	*1978* *per cent.*
Harrow	6·2	5·3	4·3	5·0	4·4	4·7
Havering	5·9	4·9	4·8	4·0	4·7	5·3
Hillingdon	7·5	6·8	5·9	5·7	6·5	6·5
Hounslow	11·2	8·9	7·2	6·7	7·1	7·8
Kingston-upon-Thames	5·8	5·7	5·1	5·1	6·0	6·5
Merton	7·4	6·4	5·4	3·8	7·6	8·7
Newham	11·6	10·1	8·4	8·8	9·2	9·8
Redbridge	5·5	4·4	4·0	2·2	5·1	6·9
Richmond-upon-Thames	10·6	9·1	7·2	6·4	8·5	9·6
Sutton	3·4	2·8	2·5	2·1	7·7	8·2
Waltham Forest	14·0	12·4	8·9	6·9	7·2	8·7
ILEA	25·0	23·1	20·3	18·6	19·0	20·5
Birmingham	28·3	n/a	19·8	14·1	15·4	17·0
Coventry	23·3	20·5	18·1	13·3	13·9	15·8
Dudley	11·3	8·6	6·6	4·2	4·5	5·3
Sandwell	20·3	17·0	14·1	9·0	7·9	9·7
Solihull	9·9	8·4	5·8	3·9	7·7	9·4
Walsall	20·1	17·4	13·2	9·1	9·2	12·1
Wolverhampton	21·5	18·1	15·8	11·1	10·1	11·2
Knowsley	34·7	30·7	21·4	15·1	20·4	23·8
Liverpool	29·0	24·6	22·7	20·5	20·6	21·4
St. Helens	17·4	14·7	12·0	9·7	8·6	11·2
Sefton	13·3	11·7	9·3	7·4	10·4	12·5
Wirral	20·6	13·8	15·6	11·3	10·7	11·6
Bolton	18·1	17·3	14·0	11·8	11·2	14·8
Bury	10·8	9·6	7·1	5·3	8·9	12·0
Manchester	36·2	33·0	29·9	23·5	24·9	26·8
Oldham	21·1	18·2	17·2	8·5	11·7	13·7
Rochdale	23·8	21·0	17·5	13·4	13·5	16·8
Salford	23·3	20·9	16·6	15·4	16·7	17·9
Stockport	13·2	10·8	9·3	8·3	9·8	11·4
Tameside	18·5	16·4	14·0	11·9	11·5	14·5
Trafford	11·5	9·4	7·9	6·3	12·7	14·7
Wigan	15·8	14·3	13·3	10·8	11·8	14·5
Barnsley	14·6	12·2	9·4	8·9	9·7	12·3
Doncaster	16·1	14·1	12·5	8·9	9·1	11·0
Rotherham	13·3	9·0	8·5	7·1	8·9	11·2
Sheffield	15·8	12·6	10·1	7·2	7·6	8·5
Bradford	27·8	24·5	20·2	15·7	16·4	18·2
Calderdale	18·6	17·6	13·6	10·5	10·4	13·1
Kirklees	18·6	16·3	14·7	12·3	11·5	13·4
Leeds	20·6	11·4	16·7	13·6	13·6	15·5
Wakefield	14·6	13·9	12·4	9·7	10·1	12·4
Gateshead	18·1	17·5	16·2	12·9	14·2	16·1
Newcastle upon Tyne	25·8	22·8	20·8	17·6	18·2	20·7
North Tyneside	16·7	14·6	11·4	10·1	11·1	10·9
South Tyneside	18·5	15·8	13·9	12·5	12·5	15·7
Sunderland	21·2	19·0	17·0	14·0	14·2	16·1
Isles of Scilly	27·0	24·4	21·0	25·8	n/a	15·1
Avon	13·2	12·4	10·7	8·9	8·8	11·4
Bedfordshire	8·9	7·6	14·0	6·8	7·5	8·9
Berkshire	5·3	4·5	3·7	2·6	6·7	8·0
Buckinghamshire	6·5	9·7	4·1	3·5	4·7	4·9
Cambridgeshire	10·1	9·1	7·9	7·6	7·4	8·9
Cheshire	11·4	9·5	6·6	5·7	9·4	10·0
Cleveland	22·9	19·4	16·0	13·4	12·0	13·2
Cornwall	12·6	11·9	9·5	7·1	15·2	18·5
Cumbria	9·2	8·7	7·1	7·0	8·9	11·0
Derbyshire	12·6	11·2	9·4	6·7	7·0	8·9
Devon	10·8	10·0	8·9	7·3	12·9	15·2
Dorset	7·9	6·4	5·4	6·9	11·2	13·7
Durham	18·1	16·3	14·3	12·4	12·3	15·3
East Sussex	9·4	8·6	9·5	8·9	11·9	14·0
Essex	8·3	7·1	4·7	4·8	6·5	8·2
Gloucestershire	7·4	5·3	4·8	4·1	10·0	12·0
Hampshire	6·8	5·8	4·5	3·8	7·5	9·5
Hereford and Worcester	9·2	7·5	6·6	5·4	7·7	9·2
Hertfordshire	7·0	6·5	5·8	5·2	6·5	7·5

	1983 per cent.	1982 per cent.	1981 per cent.	1980 per cent.	1979 per cent.	1978 per cent.
Humberside	9·7	16·3	10·7	9·7	9·7	11·8
Isle of Wight	11·5	9·8	7·5	5·7	8·6	10·9
Kent	7·5	6·6	5·2	5·0	7·7	9·4
Lancashire	16·9	14·6	12·0	9·1	11·4	12·6
Leicestershire	11·9	9·4	7·4	5·8	8·2	9·9
Lincolnshire	6·7	5·4	5·2	5·0	7·3	8·8
Norfolk	10·3	8·6	6·4	9·3	10·0	11·7
North Yorkshire	9·2	8·6	7·5	6·4	8·6	10·9
Northamptonshire	11·6	10·2	7·8	5·2	8·1	10·1
Northumberland	9·4	8·6	6·6	8·4	11·8	14·4
Nottinghamshire	14·2	12·1	10·7	6·9	10·2	11·5
Oxfordshire	6·7	6·1	5·4	3·9	7·9	9·9
Salop	13·1	12·0	9·6	9·9	10·3	11·5
Somerset	11·0	9·6	8·9	8·4	10·1	12·7
Staffordshire	8·9	7·0	5·2	3·7	6·9	8·1
Suffolk	7·0	6·4	5·2	3·9	9·5	11·8
Surrey	3·2	2·6	2·2	1·8	4·2	5·3
Warwickshire	7·0	6·2	4·6	3·6	6·1	7·6
West Sussex	5·1	4·1	3·7	3·0	7·4	9·2
Wiltshire	8·3	7·1	6·2	4·7	9·4	12·1
ENGLAND	13·3	11·3	9·9	8·3	10·1	11·9

Agricultural Courses

Mr. Alton asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will list all those educational establishments in England and Wales which maintain full-time courses in agriculture and related subjects and the number of places available at each institution for each year since 1979.

Sir Keith Joseph: The information is not available in the form requested. I am sending the hon. Member a copy of the National Consultative Committee for Agricultural Education's list of full-time and sandwich courses in agriculture, horticulture and forestry; full information on courses at all levels and in all modes of attendance, with enrolments from 1979, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Student Numbers

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if he will publish figures showing for 1982-83, 1983-84 and an estimate for 1984-85 of the numbers of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students in England.

Mr. Brooke: The numbers of students, from home and abroad, in universities and colleges of further and higher education in England were as follows:

	1982	1983
Full-time and sandwich	804,000	802,000
Part-time (including evening only)	1,256,000	1,348,000

Note: November-December of each year. Figures exclude the Open University and the University of Buckingham.

Statistics for 1984 are not yet available.

Independent Schools

Mr. Alfred Morris asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many independent special schools there are in the United Kingdom; how many of those passed his Department's inspection first time to be registered; and if the same criteria are used as in the inspection of state schools.

Mr. Dunn: My right hon. Friend's responsibilities extend to England only. The arrangements in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of the respective Secretaries of State.

In England the terms "independent school" and "special school" refer to different types of institution. A special school is a school, whether maintained by a local education authority or not, which has been approved by my right hon. Friend as a special school under section 9(5) of the Education Act 1944. "Independent school" is defined in that Act in such a way as to exclude any school which is a special school.

It is an offence under section 70 of the Education Act 1944 to conduct an independent school which is not registered or provisionally registered. Registration on a provisional basis is granted automatically on receipt of the necessary details from a new independent school, pending a decision about final registration. Information about the number of inspections or visits to independent schools before the granting of final registration could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The requirements for registration to be made final, or for final registration to be allowed to continue, are set out in section 71 of the 1944 Act. In effect, a minimum standard of acceptability is sought in regard to premises, accommodation, instruction, and the suitability of the proprietor(s) and teachers.

I think, however, that the right hon. Member may have in mind the approval which certain independent schools may seek under the Education Act 1981. Under section 11 of that Act a local education authority may not place pupils with statements of special educational need at an independent school unless either the school is approved by my right hon. Friend as suitable for the admission of children for whom statements are maintained or he gives his consent in an individual case. So far 190 independent schools have sought approval under the 1981 Act; 91 have so far been approved, of which one third received approval after one visit by Her Majesty's inspectors. A number of schools have closed since seeking approval, including two which had secured it.

As was explained in the Department's circular No. 8/81, in order to secure approval under the 1981 Act independent schools are required to meet similar standards in respect of premises, qualified staff, education and care to those required in maintained and non-maintained special schools. They will also be required, as a condition of approval, to publish information about their facilities.

Steiner Schools

Mr. Alfred Morris asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if it is his intention to exercise his powers under section 19(c) of the Education Act 1981 to make special provision for recognition of *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teacher training within Steiner schools; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Dunn: As the right hon. Member is aware, the advice given by the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers on the subject of teacher training for special education includes recommendations about the training provided by the Steiner movement. My right hon. Friend is considering this advice and will announce his decision as soon as possible.

Higher Education

Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many places were available in further and higher education for each of the last five years in *(a)* universities, *(b)* polytechnics and *(c)* other institutions; and how many and what percentage of the students concerned were studying for each category of qualification for which records are available.

Mr. Brooke: I shall reply to the hon. and learned Member as soon as possible.

National Child Development Study

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he will make a statement on the future of the national child development study.

Sir Keith Joseph: I have no particular intentions at present towards the national child development study.

Cohort Studies (Funding)

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he will list in the *Official Report* the cohort studies currently receiving funding from his Department, giving the name of the research body, the name and subject of the research and the amount of funding from his Department in the current year and in total; when the funding is due to expire; and what plans he has to renew it in each case.

Sir Keith Joseph: None.

School Curriculum

Mr. Christopher Hawkins asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science when Her Majesty's Inspectorate's discussion paper on the school curriculum is to be published; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph: Her Majesty's Inspectorate has published today, in the "Curriculum Matters" series, its discussion paper "The Curriculum from 5 to 16". It raises, for comment not only by those professionally involved in education but also by the many others who have an interest in the work of the schools, some important issues about the ways in which a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum can be provided for all pupils in the compulsory years. The paper is a further step towards establishing broad agreement on the objectives for the curriculum which is provided in our schools.

The purpose of the paper is to stimulate discussion: Her Majesty's inspectors will be glad to receive views on both the general approach and the detailed considerations set out in the paper. Views may differ on some of the difficult issues raised by the paper. For example, I am not myself satisfied that the discussion of the humanities and social studies gives sufficient prominence to the influence of ideas and beliefs nor to social or political systems, as distinct from impersonal environmental and economic forces. Differences of opinion such as this need to be tested in debate.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales and I hope that commentators will give particular attention to how broad principles on the content and organisation of the curriculum can best be translated, within the resources available, into reality, how the curiosity, originality and creative talents of pupils can be developed so as to enrich their achievements as individuals and as members of society making free but responsible choices, and to make them aware of the importance of ideas and beliefs in human activities; the range of personal qualities and competence needed to equip young people adequately for employment in a world which increasingly demands versatility and enterprise; and the means of securing appropriate differentiation for pupils of differing ability and aptitudes without detriment to the requirements of breadth, balance and relevance in the curriculum of all pupils.

Assisted Places Scheme

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many places on the assisted places scheme remained unfilled in each year since the scheme's introduction for the following age-groups; and how many of the filled places represent cases where the 60 per cent. requirement has been relaxed in each case, for each of the following age groups: *(a)* 11 to 13 years, *(b)* 13 to 16 years and *(c)* 16 to 18 years.

Mr. Dunn [*pursuant to his reply,* 19 March 1985, c. *480*]: The numbers of unfilled assisted places in each year's quota were as follows:

Number of places

School year	*11-15*	*VI form*
1981-82	795	459
1982-83	793	380
1983-84	605	276
1984-85	459	215

Had the relaxations from the 60 per cent. rule not been given, the totals of unfilled places for each year would have been higher by the following amounts.

School year	*Number of places*
1981-82	164
1982-83	157
1983-84	134
1984-85	63

HOME DEPARTMENT

Passport and Customs Control

88. **Mr. Yeo** asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will consider removing passport and customs control between Britain and other European Economic Community countries.

Mr. Waddington: The possible reduction of passport and customs controls between member states of the European Community is at present under consideration within the Community. While we welcome measures designed to facilitate the passage across Community borders of passengers and goods meeting immigration and customs requirements, we are not prepared to agree to the abolition of all such controls.

Sexual Offences Bill

Mr. Irving asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the reply to the hon. Member for Cheltenham of 8 February, *Official Report,* column 708, what were the main reservations contained in the comments made to his Department by the National Association of Probation Officers concerning the Sexual Offences Bill 1985; whether he has any plans to meet the association's officers to discuss these matters; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Mellor: In its letter of 22 January the National Association of Probation Officers expressed the view that the Bill would not reduce the nuisance caused by kerb crawling unless there was a large and persistent police presence; that it might lead to allegations of harassment from disadvantaged groups, and to police officers acting as agents provocateurs; that the police already had sufficient powers to deal with this nuisance, but had given little priority to it; that the level of maximum fines under the Bill would lead to increasing use of imprisonment for fine default; and that the way forward was to "decriminalise" prostitution. The association also expressed concern at the fact that provisions dealing with kerb crawling are contained in the same Bill as increases in the maximum penalties for serious sexual offences.

The association's views are at variance with those of the Criminal Law Revision Committee, on whose proposals the Bill is based, and I do not agree with them. I conveyed our views in a reply to the association on 12 February, of which a copy has been sent to my hon. Friend. The association did not request a meeting and we have no plans to arrange one.

Mr. Irving asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received, and from whom, and what discussions he has had concerning the issue of kerb-crawling since the second reading of the Sexual Offences Bill 1985; whether he has any new proposals on this issue; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Mellor: Since the second reading of the Sexual Offences Bill on 25 January we have received representations on the issue of kerb crawling from the Prosecuting Solicitors' Society of England and Wales, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Law Society, the B3 Consultative Committee (Birmingham), Family and Youth Concern, the Wellclose Square Fund and the Joint Moseley and Balsall Heath Committee against Kerb Crawling. All of these organisations welcome the Bill although some offer detailed comments. I have discussed the Bill further with its promoter, my hon. Friend the Member for Plymouth, Drake (Miss Fookes) and the Home Office has had discussions with the Metropolitan police.

We are satisfied that the Bill, which is based entirely on the recommendations of the Criminal law Revision Committee, is the correct way to proceed and we have no new proposals on this issue.

Strip Searches

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what was the number of strip searches carried out on female prisoners in the last year for which figures are available; and what was the number of females involved;

(2) what is the number of strip searches carried out on female prisoners so far in 1985; and what is the number of females involved;

(3) what was the number of strip searches carried out in each female institution and the number of females involved, in each year since 1981 and so far this year;

(4) what was the number of strip searches carried out on teenage girl prisoners in 1984 and so far in 1985; and what was the number of girls involved.

Mr. Mellor: This information is not recorded centrally and its collection would involve disproportionate cost.

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will explain the circumstances in which female prisoners are subject to strip searches.

Mr. Mellor: This information is contained in my reply to a question from the hon. Member for Foyle (Mr. Hume) on 25 February, at columns 32-33, which referred equally to male and female prisoners.

Equal Opportunities Commission

Ms. Richardson asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department why he has not asked the Trades Union Congress to renominate a third person to fill the vacancy on the Equal Opportunities Commission; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Waddington: My right hon. and learned Friend wrote to the general secretary of the Trades Union Congress on 15 March to ask him to suggest a suitable candidate for appointment to the commission.

Hilda Murrell

Mr. Dalyell asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the progress of the inquiry by Assistant Chief Constable Peter Smith into the case of the late Hilda Murrell.

Mr. Giles Shaw: I understand from the chief constable of West Mercia Constabulary that Mr. Smith's review of the investigation of this case, which he began on 4 March, is continuing. He will report to the chief constable in due course.

Crime (North-West England)

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of his policies during the last year have proved successful in tackling crime in the north-west of England.

Mr. Giles Shaw: There are many aspects of Home Office policies which are relevant to the prevention of crime and the detection and punishment of offenders. It would be invidious to single out any one in any individual area of the country.

Immigration Statistics

Mr. Nellist asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will also send to the hon. Member for Coventry, South-East his answer to the question of the hon. Member for Stretford (Mr. Lloyd) *Official Report*, 12 March, column *83*, when the immigration statistics referred to are available.

Mr. Waddington: In accordance with normal practice a copy of the letter to the hon. Member for Stretford (Mr. Lloyd) will be placed in the Library of the House.

EMPLOYMENT

Hertfordshire

Mr. Murphy asked the Secretary of State for Employment (1) if he will make a statement on the creation of new jobs in Hertfordshire;

(2) if he will make a statement on the level of unemployment in Hertfordshire.

Mr. Alan Clark: The Government are committed to maintaining their economic policies, which are directed at holding down inflation and public borrowing while encouraging enterprise, flexibility and competitiveness in industry and the labour market. That is the only way to generate lasting jobs in Hertfordshire and elsewhere. In the meantime we are spending over £2 billion this year on a range of employment and training measures to help the unemployed.

In Hertfordshire nearly 1,300 are being helped by the job release and young workers schemes, and in Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, nearly 1,400 people are benefiting from the community programme.

Industrial Deafness

Mr. Flannery asked the Secretary of State for Employment what figures he has to indicate what improvements industry has made regarding industrial deafness.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: There are no figures available which reliably show trends in industrial deafness. However, the chairman of the Health and Safety Commission and I are confident that the noise awareness campaign launched by the chairman and by my predecessor in October 1983 and the noise enforcement initiative launched by the director-general of the Health and Safety Executive in January 1984 are beginning to change the attitudes of designers, manufacturers, employers and workers towards the need to ensure effective protection of hearing against noise. The Health and Safety Executive is monitoring the effect of the enforcement initiative.

Area Manpower Boards

Mr. Lawler asked the Secretary of State for Employment if, with reference to the current review of the area manpower boards, he will seek to ensure that young people will be represented on the reconstituted boards.

Mr. Peter Morrison: No.

Mr. Sheerman asked the Secretary of State for Employment what is the constitutional position of area manpower boards; and to what extent their constitutions or guides to practice permit co-opted members to vote.

Mr. Peter Morrison [*pursuant to his reply*, 12 March 1985, c. *95*]: The constitution of area manpower boards is set out in the guide to the working of area manpower boards, a copy of which is available in the Library. Co-opted members do not normally have the right to vote, but exceptionally on certain boards some co-opted members are allowed to vote.

Mr. Sheerman asked the Secretary of State for Employment which area manpower boards have no members who are from ethnic minorities; and what is the proportion of ethnic minorities in the general population in the area they serve.

Mr. Peter Morrison [*pursuant to his reply*, 12 March 1985, c. *95*]: 36 of the 55 area manpower boards have no members from ethnic minorities. They are as follows. Up-to-date information for the purposes of the comparison requested is not available.

Area manpower boards with no member from ethnic minorities	*Approximate percentage of ethnic minorities in total population in area covered by board* Percentage*
Scotland	
Highlands and Islands	†
Grampian and Tayside	1
Central and Fife	1
Lothian and Borders	1
Dumfries and Galloway	†
Glasgow City	‡1
Dumbarton, Argyll and Renfrewshire	
Lanarkshire	
Ayrshire	
Wales	
Gwynedd	†
Clwyd and Powys	1
Dyfed and West Glamorgan	1
Mid and South Glamorgan	1
Gwent	—
Northern	
Cleveland	2
Durham	1
North Tyne	1
Yorkshire and Humberside	
North Yorkshire	1
South Yorkshire	2
Humberside	1
North West	
Cheshire	1
Cumbria	†
Midlands	
Derbyshire	2
Lincolnshire	1

Area manpower boards with no member from ethnic minorities	*Approximate percentage of ethnic minorities in total population in area covered by board** *Percentage*
Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester	1
Staffordshire	1
Wolverhampton and Walsall	11
South West	
Dorset and Somerset	1
Cornwall and Devon	1
South East	
Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire	3
Essex	2
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	2
Kent	2
Norfolk and Suffolk	1
Surrey	3
East and West Sussex	2

* All figures rounded to nearest 1 per cent.
† Less than 0·5 per cent.
‡ Estimate is for Strathclyde region.

Mr. Sheerman asked the Secretary of State for Employment how many members of area manpower boards are *(a)* black/other ethnic minority, *(b)* women and *(c)* young people under 25 years; and, in each case, how many are full members, co-opted members with voting rights, and co-opted members without voting rights; and what proportion these represent of total membership.

Mr. Peter Morrison [*pursuant to his reply*, 12 March 1985, c. *95*]: Information on the age of area manpower board members is not available. The breakdown of area manpower board membership by black/ethnic minorities, and women is as follows (with proportions against total membership shown in brackets):

	Numbers	*Percentage*
Full members		
(a) Black/other ethnic minority	8	(0·8)
(b) Women	82	(8·2)
Co-opted members without voting rights		
(a) Black/ethnic minority	19	(1·9)
(b) Women	14	(1·4)
Co-opted members with voting rights		
(a) Black/other ethnic minority	3	(0·3)

Day Release

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Secretary of State for Employment if he will publish figures showing for 1982-83, 1983-84 and an estimate for 1984-85, the numbers in England of *(a)* full-time trainees, *(b)* apprentices and *(c)* trainees on day release courses.

Mr. Peter Morrison: Information is not available in the form requested. However, the following information is available:

- *(a)* The 1983 labour force survey shows that there were about 280,000 people undertaking apprenticeship training in the spring of 1983.
- *(b)* There were 409,000 students on day and block release courses in 1982-83 and 448,000 in 1983-84.

Job Release Scheme

Mr. Tony Lloyd asked the Secretary of State for Employment if he will give reasons for the decision to increase the age of eligibility for the job release scheme from 62 to 64 years of age for men.

Mr. Alan Clark: These changes were first announced on 13 April 1983, at columns 430-31, and came into effect from 1 April 1984. We have made it clear on many occasions that the employment measures are reviewed regularly and changes made whenever necessary to ensure the most efficient and effective use of available resources.

Labour Statistics

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for Employment if he will give a monthly breakdown of the numbers of people employed in the construction industry in the north-west of England in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Mr. Alan Clark: Estimates of employess in employment by region are only available quarterly, the latest information relates to September 1984.

The following table gives, for the dates shown, the estimated number of employees in employment in the north-west region in the construction industry (division 5 of the 1980 standard industrial classification).

Construction industry—North West region

	Thousands
1981	
December	115
1982	
March	112
June	113
September	113
December	110
1983	
March	107
June	107
September	108
December	106
1984	
March	104
June	102
September	103

Nuclear Waste (Bedfordshire)

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for Employment what will be the function of the Health and Safety Executive in relation to nuclear waste of the description scheduled to be placed at Elstow, Bedfordshire, or at two other sites to be announced.

Mr. Goodlad: I have been asked to reply.

As my right hon. Friend told the House on 25 October 1983, at column 157, the sites will be subject to licensing by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Residential Homes (Payments)

Ms. Harman asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many residents of the Little Haven nursing home, 24 Kingswood Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey, are receiving payment under regulation 9 (Payments to Residential Nursing Homes); and how much has been paid to residents in this nursing home in respect of board and lodging allowances in the last 12 months.

Mr. Whitney: Six residents at the Little Haven nursing home are receiving supplementary benefit under regulation 9 of the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements) Regulations 1983 at the rate appropriate to a nursing home. During the 12 months ending 5 March 1985 they received social security benefits (comprising supplementary benefit, retirement pension and attendance allowance) totalling approximately £63,000, of which approximately £53,000 was in respect of nursing home fees.

Mature Students

Mr. Freeman asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what steps he proposes to take to ensure that all mature students in full-time education are better informed of their right to make flat rate national insurance contributions so as to preserve their contributions record.

Mr. Whitney: A leaflet (FB23) "Going to College or University" containing information on the payment of national insurance contributions and social security benefits is currently available. Posters advertising this leaflet and advising students that copies can be obtained from their local social security office were distributed to colleges and universities during last year. We have no plans for further publicity at present.

Elderly People

Ms. Harman asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) for each of the authorities which fall in the upper quartile of social services authorities when ranked by growth in the proportion of their population aged 75 years and above in the period 1979-80 to 1984-85, for that group as a whole and for all social services authorities in 1978-79, what was the total level of provision and the rate of provision per head of population aged 75 years and over for the following activities *(a)* local authority residential care for the elderly: total in care; *(b)* other residential care for the elderly: total in care, *(c)* day care for the elderly: total available services, *(d)* home helps: total number or whole-time equivalents, *(e)* home helps: total number of cases, *(f)* home helps: total number of hours service provided, and *(g)* meals: total number provided; what were the equivalent data in the most recent year for which such figures are available; and what were the rates of change over the whole period covered;

(2) which authorities fall in the upper quartile of social services authorities when ranked by growth in proportion of their population aged 75 years and above in the period 1979-80 to 1984-85;

(3) for each of the authorities which fall in the upper quartile of social services authorities when ranked by growth in the proportion of their population aged 75 years and above in the period 1979-80 to 1984-85, for the group as a whole and for all social services authorities, what was the rate of change in net real expenditure on personal social services in the years 1979-80, 1980-81, 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85, providing outturn data where available and budget estimates where not.

Mr. John Patten: Information is not available to answer these questions in the form specified, and it will take some time to analyse the available information. I shall place the detailed figures in the Library when the analysis is completed.

Pay

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how much each percentage rise in the pay of *(a)* staff covered by the Review Body for Nursing Staff, Midwives, Health Visitors and Professions Allied to Medicine; *(b)* staff covered by the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration and *(c)* staff not covered by review bodies costs the National Health Service, distinguishing between costs falling on health authorities and those falling on other parts of the National Health Service.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The estimated cost of a 1 per cent. increase over 1984-85 National Health Service paybills is shown in the following table. No assumptions have been made about possible changes in the volume or composition of particular staff groups in 1985-86. The full year effect of the staged award made to doctors and dentists in 1984 and of the abolition of the national insurance surcharge have been taken into account. The costings include provision for NHS agency staff, employer's national insurance contributions, and superannuation.

Hospital and Community Health Services: Great Britain

	£ million
Medical and dental staff	11·27
Nurses, Midwives and the professions allied to medicine	39·58
Non review body staff	30·61
Total	81.46

For general medical and general dental practitioners a 1 per cent. increase in the 1984-85 pay bill for Great Britain is estimated to amount to some £9·5 million.

Ativan

Mr. Sumberg asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will indicate which drugs on the limited list fulfil the clinical needs previously provided in Ativan.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: Ativan is one of the branded versions of the generic drug Lorazepam, which is included in the selected list of drugs to remain available under the NHS.

Personal Social Services

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will publish a table setting out expenditure in 1982-83 and 1983-84 on wages and salaries, including pensions, for each of the main categories of personal social services staff.

Mr. John Patten: Comprehensive information on wages and salaries of social services staff is not collected centrally. The most detailed information relates to staff costs in sub-services, but does not identify particular grades of staff. Local authority personal social services employee costs (wages and salaries, including contributions to pensions schemes) for all authorities in England were:

	(£ million CASH) *1982-83*	*1983-84*
Residential care	699	747
Home helps	241	266
Field workers	247	264
Other community support	296	333
Total	1,483	1,610

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will publish figures for 1982-83 and 1983-84 showing the administrative costs of the personal social services, distinguishing if possible between costs borne by central Government and local government.

Mr. John Patten: Net current expenditure by English local authorities on personal social services administration amounted to £278 million in 1982-83 and £303 million in 1983-84. The figures cover management and administration both at headquarters and area offices. Expenditure on personal social services administration will form part of an authority's total expenditure for the purpose of determining the level of rate support grant but central government does not contribute specifically towards local authorities' personal social services administrative costs.

Speech Therapy (Departmental Advisor)

Mr. Alfred Morris asked the Secretary of State for Social Services why he has not appointed a new adviser on speech therapy services to his Department; and if he will be doing so in the near future.

Mr. John Patten: The appointment was announced on 19 March.

NHS (Private Patients)

Mr. Meacher asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if health circulars provide for private patients receiving treatment within National Health Service facilities to be charged for the use of hospital, premises, facilities and equipment.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: Health circulars about the level of charges for private patients in the National Health Service are issued annually. They contain determinations made under the powers in sections 65 and 66 of the National Health Service Act 1977 to set the charges paid by private patients in respect of accommodation and services at NHS hospitals.

Cohort Studies (Funding)

Mr. Freud asked the Secretary of State for Social Services whether he will list in the *Official Report* the cohort studies currently receiving funding from his Department, giving the name of the research body, the name and subject of the research and the amount of funding from his Department in the current year and in total; when the funding is due to expire; and what plans he has to renew it in each case.

Mr. John Patten: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Castings

Miss Boothroyd asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what subsidies are available for the import of castings; to whom such subsidies are available; if he will assess the impact of the payment on domestic markets; and whether he will make a statement.

Mr. Butcher: No United Kingdom subsidies are available for the import of castings into this country. Any evidence that imports are either being subsidised or sold at dumped prices (usually taken as being below the comparable exporting country's domestic prices), and that they are damaging industry in the Community, should be passed on to the Department of Trade and Industry's anti-dumping unit and the unit will be pleased to examine the situation.

Information Technology Centres

Mr. Coombs asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for the expansion and future development of the information technology education centre programme; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Butcher: My Department has now achieved its target of establishing 175 ITeCs. We shall continue to provide pump-priming financial support to individual centres for a three-year period after their establishment. Following the expiry of this period it is intended that ITeCs will be in a position to become partially self-supporting as a result of their own commercial activities.

Oil Industry (Competition)

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent studies his Department has conducted into the application of his competition policy to the oil industry and in particular petrol pricing; when last he referred this matter to either the Monopolies and Mergers Commission or the Office of Fair Trading; when last either body drew an aspect of this subject to his attention; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Fletcher: The supply of petrol was last referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation in 1976 and the report was published in 1979. Since then, in line with the commission's recommendation, the Director General of Fair Trading has been keeping the petrol market under review and Ministers in this Department have been kept informed of developments. The director general has so far concluded that further action would not be justified.

Business Start-ups (Rural Areas)

Mr. Alton asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what specific facility his Department has for granting financial and other help to young people in rural areas who wish to start their own businesses.

Mr. Trippier: Young people are, of course, eligible to apply for Government schemes of assistance for starting new businesses and can seek information and advice from my Department's small firms service. In rural areas assistance is also provided by the Development Commission's Council for Small Industries in Rural

Areas. They can assist young people with negotiating loan facilities with banks or as a last resort provide loan finance themselves.

BL Cars

Mr. Gryils asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he is satisfied with the progress made by the BL board in carrying out its intention stated in September 1983 of seeking further private sector funds over the next two years within its mainstream business; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Butcher: I shall reply to my hon. Friend as soon as possible.

Clothing, Footwear and Textiles

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he now has for Government investment in new technology for small firms in the clothing, footwear and textile industries.

Mr. Trippier: The full text of the Commission's decision rejecting the proposed investment scheme (CLOFT) for small firms in the clothing, footwear, knitting and textiles sector has been received only recently. My department is currently studying the details and is arranging discussions with representatives of the industries concerned to consider the situation.

Package Holidays

Mr. Rost asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received alleging that restrictions imposed by holiday tour companies which preclude Ilkeston Co-operative Society from marketing package holidays at discounted prices may be in breach of the Competition Act 1980; what action he proposes to take in response to such representations; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Fletcher: My right hon. Friend has not received any such representations recently. However, the supply of package holidays by tour operators through travel agents and the related question of discounts are currently being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission following a monopoly reference made by the Director General of Fair Trading under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973. The Competition Act 1980 does not of itself make practices unlawful, but gives the director general powers to conduct an investigation following which he may consider whether to make a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Information Technology Industry

Dr. McDonald asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish in the *Official Report* the numbers employed in each sector of the information technology industry, namely, office machinery, electronic data processing equipment, telecommunications equipment, radio and electronic capital goods, electronic components and sub-assemblies and electronic consumer goods, for each year from 1979 to 1984.

Mr. Butcher [*pursuant to his reply*, 18 March 1985, c. 346]: The information on employment is not available at the detailed industry level requested. The following table gives the information which is available:

Annual average employment

thousands

	**1979*	**1980*	**1981*	*1982*	*1983*	*‡1984*
Office Machinery and Electronic Data Processing Equipment	448	436	407	74·4	73·1	73·6
Telecommunications Equipment				56·9	55·0	51·4
Radio and Electronic Capital Goods				87·2	89·0	92·5
Passive Electronic Components				30·2	31·1	33·6
Active Electronic Components and Sub-assemblies and Electronic Consumer Goods				†124·4	†128·3	†134·0

Source: Department of Employment.

* Data for 1979, 1980 and 1981 are available only at aggregate level. The figures shown include those for employment in the "Electrical instruments and control systems" and "Records and Tapes" industries. These sectors cannot be seperated from the industries defined as information technology.

† These figures include employment in the "Records and Tapes" industry which are not seperately identifiable.

‡ January—September.

PRIME MINISTER

Housing Costs

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Prime Minister if she will publish figures showing the total United Kingdom costs of Government support for housing costs in each year since 1979-80, distinguishing between each of the following: *(a)* rent rebates and allowances with supplementary benefit, *(b)* rates rebates with supplementary benefit, *(c)* mortgage interest payments with supplementary benefit, *(d)* rent rebates and rent allowances for working householders, *(e)* rate rebates for working householders, *(f)* mortgage interest tax relief including option mortgages, *(g)* improvement grants and *(h)* rent subsidies.

The Prime Minister: The following are the available estimates of central and local government expenditure in support of housing in the United Kingdom.

£ million

	1979-80	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*
Assistance to supplementary benefit recipients:*					
Rents	500	700	1,000	1,100	1,700
Rates	250	300	400	500	700
Mortgage interest	50	50	100	150	150
Rent rebates and allowances†	300	350	550	700	900
Rate rebates†	200	300	400	500	550
Mortgage interest relief‡	1,640	2,190	2,310	2,460	2,830
Improvement & thermal insulation grants‖	189	208	298	592	1,266
Central government subsidies to LA & new town housing¶	1,828	2,029	1,437	940	656
Rate fund contributions to LA housing	404	523	539	569	636

* Before introduction of the housing benefit scheme, based on amount of rents, rates and interest taken into account in assessing supplementary benefit entitlement. Subsequently, certificated rent rebates and allowances, rate rebates and mortgage interest; including housing benefit supplements.

† Rebates and allowances to non-recipients of supplementary benefit. Including rate rebates under provisions of the Rating and Disabled Persons Act.

‡ Tax relief to 1982-83 and subsequently MIRAS; including option mortgage scheme.

‖ Grants paid to private owners and tenants.

¶ Including subsidies to Scottish Special Housing Association and Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

VJ Day

Mr. McQuarrie asked the Prime Minister what arrangements Her Majesty's Government envisage for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of VJ Day; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer that I gave on 14 February, at column 230, and that of my hon. Friend for Pendle (Mr. Lee) on 11 March, at column 57, about our plans for the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the end of the second world war in all theatres.

Treasury and Civil Service Committee (Report)

Mr. Dorrell asked the Prime Minister when the Government's response to the eighth report of the Treasury and Civil Service Committee is to be published.

The Prime Minister: The Government's response to the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee's eighth report is published today as Cmnd. 9465 and copies are available in the House of Commons library.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food whether he will provide for each of the common agricultural policy products for which there is a guarantee threshold, a table showing the level of the threshold, the price and other adjustments which have to be made at each level of over-production, and the quantities actually produced in the European Economic Community and in the United Kingdom in 1967-68 to 1969-70 and each year since 1979.

Mr. MacGregor: The information requested on the application of guarantee thresholds and similar measures is set out in the table.

Estimates of production for most of these commodities are available on the EROSTAT computer database (CRONOS), access to which may be gained through the Library of the House. In the case of cotton, for which a common regime was introduced in 1981, statistics of Community production are available in the Commission's 1984 report on "The Agricultural Situation in the Community", a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. For isoglucose figures relating to the period from 1979-80 are as follows:

Estimated production of isoglucose

'000 tonnes dry matter

	European Community	*United Kingdom*
1979-80	*164·2	27·6
1980-81	*179·8	27·5
1981-82	181·7	27·6
1982-83	182·3	27·5
1983-84	178·5	27·5

* EC 9.

Sources: EC figures: European Commission.
United Kingdom figures: IBAP

Figures for the production of isoglucose in 1967-68 to 1969-70 are not available.

CAP price fixing 1985-86: Guarantee thresholds and similar measures

Product (Marketing year)	*(1) 1984-85 threshold or quantity (million tonnes)*	*(2) To be compared against figures for production as in 4582/85 (million tonnes)*		*(3) Method of application*	*(4) Was threshold or commission exceeded*	*Quantity commission conclusion*	*(5) Commission proposals for prices 1985-86*	*(6) Commission proposal for threshold or quantity 1985-86 (million tonnes)*
All cereals except durum wheat (1.8.85-31.7.86)	121·32	Average harvest 1982-4 Imports of substitutes in 1982-83 Total threshold	130·157 14·7 121·32	Abatement of common prices if threshold exceeded. If imports of cereals substitutes exceed 15 million tonnes add that excess to threshold. Then abate price proposed by 1 per cent. for each 1 million tonnes by which average production exceeds total threshold, up to maximum 5 per cent.	Yes, by	8·8	+1·5 per cent. abated to −3·6 per cent.	126·000 All cereals

Product (Marketing year)	(1) 1984-85 threshold or quantity (million tonnes)	(2) To be compared against figures for production as in 4582/85 (million tonnes)		(3) Method of application	(4) Was threshold or commission exceeded	Quantity commission conclusion	(5) Commission proposals for prices 1985-86	(6) Commission proposal for threshold or quantity 1985-86 (million tonnes)
Durum wheat (1.7.85-30.6.86)	4·6	Average harvest 1982-84	4·65	Abatement of common prices by 1 per cent. for each 50,000 tonnes by which average production exceeds threshold.	Commission say No		0 per cent.	As above
Oilseed rape (1.7.85-30.6.86)	2·41	Average harvest 1982-84	2·89	Abatement of common prices by 1 per cent. for each 50,000 tonnes by which average production exceeds threshold; max. 5 per cent.	Yes, by	0·49	+1·5 per cent. abated to −3·6 per cent.	2·6
Sunflower seeds (1.8.85-31.7.86)	1·0	Average harvest 1982-84	0·964	Abatement of common prices by 1 per cent. for each 50,000 tonnes by which average production exceeds threshold; max. 5 per cent.	No		−1·5 per cent.	1·115
Milk (2.4.85-31.3.86)	99·024 (plus reserve of 0·335)	Deliveries 1984-85 expected (Commission forecast) to be 99·7 million tonnes.		Quota/Supplementary Levy Scheme with Quarterly assessment	—		+1·5 per cent.	98·152
Currants (1.9.85-31.8.86)	0·065	Average harvest 1982-84	0·0693	Abatement of minimum price paid to the grower if threshold exceeded. No defined relationship between excess and abatement.	Yes, by	0·004	No Price Proposal Minimum price is within Commission competence.	0·065
Sultanas (1.9.85-31.8.86)	0·093	Average harvest 1982-84	0·0852	Abatement of minimum price paid to the grower if threshold exceeded. No defined relationship between excess and abatement.	No		No Price Proposal Minimum price is within Commission competence.	0·093
Tomato products comprising:	4·7	Average production 1982-83 to 1984-85	5·811	Abatement of processing aid if total threshold exceeded.	Yes, by	24 per cent.	Level of aid within Commission competence but Commission propose in price proposals aid should be available only for quantities within guarantee threshold on basis of national quotas.	4·7
concentrate	2·988		3·760	Abatement related to degree to which individual products exceed thresholds.	by	26 per cent.		2·988
peeled	1·307		1·576		by	21 per cent.		1·307
other (1.7.85-30.6.86)	0·405		0·463		by	14 per cent.		0·405
Cotton (1.9.85-31.8.86)	0·5	Production in 1984-85 (forecast)	0·46	Reduction of production aid payable if threshold exceeded—by same percentage as production exceeds threshold.	No		+2 per cent.	0·5
Sugar								
White A	9·5	1984-85 forecast production	9·3	Excess (C) quota either sold outside Community at world price or set against next year's A quota.	—		beet 0	9·5
White B	2·2		1·9				white +1·3	2·2
Isoglucose A	0·16		0·15				intervention	0·16
Isoglucose B (1.7.85-30.6.86)	0·04		0·04					0·04

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food whether he will publish in the *Official Report* a table showing for each of the principal products, including milk, gross expenditure under the guarantee section of the common agricultural policy on each unit of output in the European Economic Community as an average in each of the past three years, and the estimate used in the European Economic Community budget in the current year, together with the amount, if any, collected in penalty payments for overproduction.

Mr. MacGregor: The information on expenditure under the guarantee section of the EAGGF for the years 1981 to 1983 together with provisional data for 1984 and the draft budget for 1985 is given in table 43 of the report on the "Agricultural Situation in the Community 1984", a copy of which is in the Library of the House. The amounts of milk levies so far collected, and future forecasts are recorded in the report as "cost milk producers". The supplementary levy in the milk sector has not yet been collected.

The most recent information of production for the years 1981 to 1983 is available from the Eurostat computer data (Cronos), which source is available through the Library of the House. The latest estimates of production for 1984 were given in my reply of 4 March 1985 to the hon. Member.

Farm Review

Miss Maynard asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will provide a breakdown of the farm review given in Cmnd. 9423 on either a regional or county basis.

Mr. MacGregor: Statistical data contained in the "Annual Review White Paper" (Cmnd. 9423) for crop areas and livestock numbers is shown on a county basis in "Agricultural Statistics United Kingdom 1983", available in the Library of the House. A breakdown of other data included in the White Paper on a regional or county basis is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Milk and Milk Products

Mrs. Kellett-Bowman asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he has any plans to implement article 3 of the European Community regulation 857/84 to enable a farmer who has adopted a milk production development plan to have a special reference quantity taking account of the milk and milk products quantities provided for in the plan.

Mr. MacGregor: This provision has been implemented by paragraphs 8 to 13 of schedule 1 and paragraphs 7 to 13 of schedule 2 to the Dairy Produce Quotas Regulations 1984.

Live Animal Exports (Port Facilities)

Mr. Hancock asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will examine ways of improving the facilities at ports for animals exported live from the United Kingdom.

Mrs. Fenner: I see no need for such an examination. Under the Export of Animals (Protection) Order 1981, all food animals exported from Great Britain must, immediately before their international transport, be rested for at least 10 hours in lairage premises within a reasonable distance of the port of embarkation. The animals must be offered suitable food and water during this period, and the premises and the facilities provided must be officially approved as meeting detailed requirements.

The animals may only be exported if, on inspection in the lairage, one of my veterinary staff has certified them as fit to travel. Loading for international transport must take place in the presence of an official.

ENVIRONMENT

Local Authorities (Rate Capping)

Ms. Harman asked the Secretary of State for the Environment which local authorities with social services responsibilities are being rate capped in 1985-86.

Mr. Waldegrave: The following rate limited authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide social services in their areas:

London Borough of Brent
London Borough of Camden
London Borough of Greenwich
London Borough of Hackney
London Borough of Haringey
London Borough of Islington
London Borough of Lambeth
London Borough of Lewisham
London Borough of Southwark
City of Sheffield Metropolitan Council

Disabled Persons (Palace of Westminster)

Mr. Haynes asked the Secretary of State for the Environment how many registered disabled people are employed by his Department in the Palace of Westminister.

Sir George Young: My Department employs 13 registered disabled staff in the Palace of Westminster in the Property Services Agency.

Block Grant

Dr. Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what was the resources discount given to local authorities in Greater London for purposes of block grant distribution in each year from 1981-82 to 1985-86; and what were the comparable discounts given under the previous distribution arrangements for each year from 1974-75 to 1980-81.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: Figures for the years 1981-82 to 1985-86 are as follows:

	Inner London *per cent.*	*Outer London* *per cent.*
1981-82	23·5	10·6
1982-83	29·6	17·2
1983-84	29·6	17·2
1984-85	29·6	17·2
1985-86	29·6	17·2

Figures on a comparable basis for years 1974-75 to 1980-81 are not available.

Frogs (Licences)

Mr. Penhaligon asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list, for each English county, the number of licences which have been issued for the sale of frogs caught in the wild and the numbers of frogs covered by the licences issued in each county; and, in the case of Cornwall, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the wild population of frogs in that county is able to sustain the collection of the numbers which have been allowed to be sold under licence.

Mr. Waldegrave: To date, 22 dealers and pet shops throughout Great Britain have been licensed to trade in frogs. Such frogs may, however, have been obtained from outside the county in which they are sold. Three of the licensed dealers are based in Cornwall. Licences issued by my Department do not impose any limitation on the number of animals which may be sold. The situation is being closely monitored by my Department and the Nature Conservancy Council, which is satisfied that the extent of trade in the common frog is not so extensive as to constitute a threat to the species.

Housing (North-West)

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what information he has concerning the total size and quality of the housing stock in the north-west of England in the last three years.

Sir George Young: Estimates for the north-west region based on information provided in local authorities' annual housing investment programme returns on dwellings which are unfit, lack amenities or in need of renovation are as follows, with the Department's own estimates of the total housing stock.

Housing Stock: North West Region

	Thousand dwellings *December 1981*	*December 1982*	*December 1983*
Total stock	2,470	2,478	2,489
Defective dwellings	*April 1982*	*April 1983*	*April 1984*
Unfit	73	69	80
Fit, lacking amenities	125	111	93
Non-substandard in need of renovation*	364	367	376

* Not unfit or lacking amenities, but needing major capital expenditure of more than £2,500 (1982) or £3,000 (1983 and 1984).

Numbers reported by local authorities are not necessarily comparable as their criteria differ and in total their reports are not consistent with estimates of English house conditions survey of 1981.

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) what information he has concerning the number of starts of new council houses in the north-west of England in each of the months for the last three years for which figures are available;

(2) if he will give a monthly breakdown of new house completions in the north-west of England in each of the last three years for which figures are available;

(3) if he will give a monthly breakdown of the numbers of new housing starts in the north-west of England in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Sir George Young: Information is readily available only on a quarterly basis and is published in table 1.3 of "Housing and Construction Statistics, Part 1", which is available in the Library. Figures for the fourth quarter 1982 to the provisional fourth quarter 1984 will be an issue number 20 to be published tomorrow; figures for the first quarter of 1982 appeared most recently in issue No. 17.

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what information he has concerning the numbers of houses which have become uninhabitable or been demolished in the north-west of England in each of the months for the last three years for which figures are available.

Sir George Young: Information on slum clearance and other losses is collected on a financial year basis from local authorities. Following are estimates for the region:

Dwellings demolished or otherwise lost to the Housing stock: North-West Region

	Thousands
1981-82	10
1982-83	8
1983-84*	3

* Provisional

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what information he has concerning the number of people on council house waiting lists in each of the months for the last three years for which figures are available in the north-west of England.

Sir George Young: The Department does not collect information on council housing waiting lists.

Homes Insulation Scheme

Mr. Rost asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if those local authorities which underspend their allocation of grant under the homes insulation scheme in the current financial year will be able to divert such unspent funds to other purposes.

Sir George Young: Local authorities may use their homes insulation scheme allocation for other purposes if it is not required for grants under the Homes Insulation Act 1978. Under section 2(1) of the 1978 Act, expenditure on such grants is financed in full by the Department, but this provision does not apply to any part of the allocation used to cover expenditure on other services.

Mr. T. A. Peacock (Member's Correspondence)

Mr. Rost asked the Secretary of State for the Environment when the hon. Member for Erewash may expect a reply from the Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Macfarlane), to his letter of 19 November 1984 and a reminder letter of 25 January regarding the dispute between Mr. T. A. Peacock and the Ice Hockey Association.

Mr. Macfarlane: I replied to my hon. Friend's letter of 19 November on 18 December. I shall send him a copy.

Homeless Persons (North-West)

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what information he has concerning the number of homeless people in the north-west of England in each of the months for the last three years for which figures are available.

Sir George Young: Information on homelessness is available only each half-year. The estimated numbers of households accepted as homeless in the north-west of England are as follows:

Number of households accepted as homeless

Period	*Number*
2nd half 1982	4,250
1st half 1983	4,250
2nd half 1983	4,700
1st half 1984	4,850

Magnox Reactors

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for the Environment when the Magnox reactors will require decommissioning; and what method the industry proposes to use to handle the waste involved.

Mr. Goodlad: I have been asked to reply.

The earliest Magnox stations in England and Wales are expected to remain operational at least until the early 1990s. Decommissioning of these stations will not give rise to highly active waste. Most of the radioactivity will be contained in the spent fuel which will be sent for reprocessing in the normal way. The procedures used in decommissioning will ensure that all waste materials are transported and disposed of in a properly controlled manner in accordance with authorisations under the Radioactive Substances Act 1960.

Departmental Offices (Marsham Street)

Mr. Rooker asked the Secretary of State for the Environment to what he attributes the process of carbonation in his Department's main office building and the spalling of concrete with rust staining; whether calcium chloride was used as an additive to the concrete and if tests have been carried out on the level of chlorides in the concrete; and if he will make a statement.

Sir George Young [*pursuant to his reply,* 18 March 1985, c. *342*]: Carbonation of the concrete at Marsham Street is attributed to a chemical reaction with acidic solutions of atmospheric gases, notably carbon dioxide resulting in corrosion of the steel reinforcement. Calcium chloride was not used as an additive to the concrete and tests carried out have revealed that the chloride content of the concrete is satisfactorily low.

WALES

Road Building (Contracts)

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the 10 contractors who have received the largest share of motorway and trunk road construction contracts in the last three years, giving for each contractor the total value of the contracts received.

Mr. John Stradling Thomas: The list is as follows:

	Total value of contracts £
1. John Laing Construction Limited	41,106,078
2. Cementation Construction Limited	*38,064,561
3. Costain Civil Engineering Limited	*38,064,561
4. Fairclough Civil Engineering Limited	11,496,797
5. Dowsett Engineering Construction Limited	10,173,868
6. Davies Middleton and Davies	7,014,029
7. Christiani and Neilson Limited	6,617,422
8. Maenex Construction Company Limited	1,407,805
9. Glyn Davies Kidwelly Limited	835,814
10. Mid Glamorgan Civil Engineering	618,918

* In Joint Venture.

Council House Sales (Capital Receipts)

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Wales how much of the capital receipts from the sale of council houses was used by each Welsh district authority to supplement its capital spending in 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 at constant 1984-85 prices.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: The information requested is not available centrally.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. Robert Magilton (Lords Tribunal Application)

Mr. John David Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the application for compensation to the Northern Ireland Lands Tribunal, which was acknowledged on 20 February 1978, reference number LD-4-1977, by Mr. Robert Magilton of 87 Mountain road, Whitespots, Newtownards, will receive attention; and when the letters of 6 February and 25 February to the Lands Tribunal by the right hon. Member for Strangford will be acknowledged.

Dr. Boyson: I understand that the registrar of the Northern Ireland Lands Tribunal wrote to the right hon. Gentleman on 14 March expressing regret for the delay and indicating that this application has been listed for call over on Friday 29 March, when a hearing date can be fixed.

ENERGY

Waddilove Report

Mr. Skeet asked the Secretary of State for Energy when he proposes to give the Government's response to the Waddilove report on subsidence due to the mining of coal.

Mr. David Hunt: Careful and urgent consideration is being given to the Waddilove committee's recommendations, but work has inevitably been impeded by the recent disruptive action in the industry. A response will be given as soon as possible.

Sellafield (Solid Waste)

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Energy whether any of the plutonium contained in solid wastes at Sellafield and intermediate level wastes appear in the table giving the allocation of plutonium produced in Central Electricity Generating Board and South of Scotland Electricity Board Magnox reactors given in the answer of 25 January, *Official Report*, columns 545-47.

Mr. Goodlad: No.

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Energy (1) if, pursuant to his reply of 15 March, *Official Report*, column 301, regarding the origin of plutonium in solid waste at Sellafield, he will give the period to which his answer refers and the weights involved;

(2) if he will give information on the amount of plutonium contained in solid waste at Sellafield for the period 1976 to 1984, on the same basis as given on page 140 of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's sixth report, Cmnd. 6618.

Mr. Goodlad: I have nothing to add to my answer on 15 March 1985.

Plutonium

Mr. D. E. Thomas asked the Secretary of State for Energy how much plutonium now stored at Central Electricity Generating Board and South of Scotland Electricity Board Magnox stations is contained in intermediate level wastes, other than spent fuel elements, stored within nuclear reactors, as defined by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution on page 66 of its sixth report, Cmnd. 6618.

Mr. Goodlad: Only trace amounts of plutonium are contained in the intermediate level wastes which are stored at the Magnox stations.

Mrs. McCurley asked the Secretary of State for Energy whether he has reached agreement with the Central Electricity Generating Board to transfer to the board his right to plutonium from the Dungeness B nuclear power station.

Mr. Peter Walker: Anglesey Aluminium Ltd. (AAM) would have had rights to a share in the plutonium expected to be produced from the Dungeness B nuclear power station in the late 1990s because it contributed to the captial costs of the station. Under the Aluminium Industry (Anglesey Project) Scheme 1968 the then Government purchased these rights from the company by undertaking to make a series of quarterly payments running from 1971 to 2001.

I have now reached agreement with the CEGB to transfer to it the rights to plutonium from Dungeness B which I inherited as a result of this purchase. Plutonium from Dungeness B, like that from all other CEGB nuclear power stations, will now be fully owned and controlled by the CEGB, subject to the safeguards and other arrangements under the Euratom treaty. In consideration of this transfer the board will pay my Department

£1,184,000, and for the year 1984-85 only has taken over my Department's payments of £156,752 to AAM, giving a total credit to my Department of £1,340,752. My Department will continue to make payments to AAM under the 1968 scheme for years after 1984-85.

The total payment of £1,340,752 is broadly equivalent to the discounted present value of this plutonium, though the range of uncertainty about value is wide. The value is, however, substantially less than was expected when the purchase from AAM was made in 1968. Assumptions which have proved inaccurate were then made about the demand for plutonium for use in fast reactors, and about the date of commissioning of Dungeness B. Both demand for plutonium and the amount produced during the 30-year life of the agreement will now be less. As a result, the payments already made to AAM totalling some £2 million will be treated as a constructive loss in the accounts of my Department.

Energy Ministers Council

Mr. Cash asked the Secretary of State for Energy whether he will make a statement about the meeting of the European Communities Council of Energy Ministers on 15 March.

Mr. Goodlad: I represented the United Kingdom at the Energy Ministers Council on 15 March.

The Council discussed the present state of the European refining industry, following refinery closures by companies to bring capacity more into line with demand, and in the light of an expected increase in the volume of exports of refined oil products from middle east countries. The Council agreed that the Commission should continue to keep a careful watch on the situation. The Commission is to consult other major consuming countries in order to ensure that additional imports are absorbed into the market in an orderly way.

A first discussion was held on the Commission's proposal for a further five-year regulation to provide support for energy demonstration projects. A number of countries, including the United Kingdom, felt that the Commission's proposal to spend 700 mecu over five years were over-ambitious.

The Council adopted a resolution designed to promote progress in using energy more efficiently in buildings. Energy pricing and a draft directive on substitute fuels were also briefly discussed.

THE ARTS

North-West England (Provision)

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State answering in respect of the Arts if he will list the sucesses of his Department in providing for the arts in the north-west of England in the last year.

Mr. Waldegrave: I shall let my hon. Friend have a reply as soon as possible.

TRANSPORT

M2

Mr. Crouch asked the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the enlargement of the M2 into a three-lane motorway.

Mrs. Chalker: We are at present undertaking a study of the possible need for more capacity on the M2 between junctions 1 and 3. Subject to the outcome, the existing M2 and the M20 with the new section from Maidstone to Ashford should provide for traffic between London, the M25 and the Kent coast beyond the end of the century.

Motorways (Roadworks)

Mr. Best asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list in the *Official Report* the dates of disruption to M1 and M6 motorways due to roadworks since 1979.

Mrs. Chalker: I regret that the information sought is not available.

Maintenance is necessary to deal with wear and tear and to keep roads safe. So on these two routes during any specific period, some maintenance work may have to be carried out with some loss of road capacity.

Woolwich Free Ferry

Mr. Cartwright asked the Secretary of State for Transport what bodies or organisations have been consulted about the future ownership and operation of the Woolwich free ferry after the abolition of the Greater London council; and what responses they have made.

Mrs. Chalker: Last July my Department issued a consultation paper entitled "Reallocation of Transport Responsibilities in London Following Abolition of the GLC." A copy was sent to the hon. Member. This invited views from all London borough councils on a range of points, including the appropriate transfer of responsibility for the Woolwich ferry. The two boroughs between whose areas the ferry operates offered no comments at all.

Mr. Cartwright asked the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the future arrangements for the ownership and operation of the Woolwich free ferry after the abolition of the Greater London council.

Mrs. Chalker: In good time for April 1986.

Lowland Airports, Scotland

Mr. Hirst asked the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce his findings on the review of Scotland's lowland airports policy.

Mr. Michael Spicer: My right hon. Friend hopes to be able to announce a decision in the next few weeks.

British Rail (Disabled Persons)

Mr. Alfred Morris asked the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the Disability Alliance, the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind about the proposed changes in British Rail's fare structure and in the discounts available to disabled holders of railcards; what reply he is sending; if there is any action he will be taking; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Ridley: The Disability Alliance has sent me a copy of its letter of 4 March to the chairman of BR about changes in fare discounts for all railcard holders to be introduced from 12 May. I will be replying shortly.

I expect the board to provide services which are good value for money at acceptable fares and charges. Within this objective, responsibility for determining fares structures and levels rests with the board. I welcome the concern the board has shown and the measures it has taken for disabled people, including the original introduction of discounted rail fares for this group of travellers. The board's view is that overall the holders of railcards, which include disabled people, should not be worse off as a result of the changes in the fares discounts.

Helicopter Accident (Isles of Scilly)

Mr. Harris asked the Secretary of State for Transport when the report on the British Airways helicopter accident near the Isles of Scilly will be published; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Michael Spicer: The report on this tragic accident will be published by HMSO on 21 March 1985. The wreckage was recovered from the seabed and transported to the accidents investigation branch (AIB) facilities at Farnborough, where an extremely detailed examination failed to reveal any technical faults that could have caused the accident. The report contains eight safety recommendations. Seven have been accepted by the Civil Aviation Authority and are being processed by it.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

El Salvador

Mr. Cartwright asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is the policy of Her Majesty's Government on British aid to El Salvador in the event of a resolution of the internal conflict in that country.

Mr. Raison: Following the visit to the United Kingdom last summer by President Duarte, Her Majesty's Government agreed to resume a modest programme of technical cooperation to El Salvador. It would be premature to speculate what effect a resolution of internal conflict in El Salvador might have on future British aid.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Budgetary Discipline

75. **Mr. Terry Patchett** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals are under consideration at the Foreign Affairs Council concerning the financing of Community expenditure in 1985.

77. **Mr. Bob Edwards** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have been held at the Foreign Affairs Council regarding the 1985 European Economic Community budget.

85. **Miss Boothroyd** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if Her Majesty's Government intend to seek parliamentary approval for a further loan to the European Economic Community.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Discussions are continuing today in Brussels on how to ensure the implementation of the United Kingdom's abatement; on the timing of new own resources and on the financing of the 1985 budget.

86. **Mr. James Hamilton** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by what criteria Her Majesty's Government intend to judge the success of the recently adopted proposals on European Economic Community budgetary discipline.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The success of the budgetary discipline arrangements must be judged by whether they help achieve the control of Community expenditure, particularly agricultural expenditure, for which they were designed.

Community Reforms

81. **Mr. Teddy Taylor** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress which has been made in implementing the European Economic Community reform proposals agreed at the Fontainebleu summit.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: A text on budgetary discipline was agreed by the Council last December and will apply to decisions taken this year concerning expenditure in 1986. Discussion is continuing on the texts necessary to implement the Fontainebleu agreement on budgetary imbalances and own resources. The work of the Committee on Institutional Affairs is nearly completed and its report, together with part of the People's Europe Committee's final report, will be submitted to the European Council on 29 and 30 March.

Spain and Portugal (Accession)

82. **Mr. Park** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the discussions over the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Economic Community.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Work has been continuing in the Community since the Foreign Affairs Council on 28 February to prepare for the extended Foreign Affairs Council and negotiating session with Spain and Portugal which began on Sunday. These meetings are still in progress. My hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, Pentlands (Mr. Rifkind) will be making a statement tomorrow on the outcome.

84. **Mr. MacKenzie** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what will be the effect of the accession of Spain and Portugal on the spending priorities of the European Economic Community.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The Council will decide on spending priorities in the enlarged Community taking account of available resources and the provisions of the agreement on budget discipline.

Voting Procedures

83. **Mr. Deakins** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the issue of extended majority voting will next be discussed by the Council of Ministers.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I would refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Clwyd, North-West (Sir A. Meyer).

Central America

87. **Mr. Buchan** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions have been held in the Foreign Afairs Council concerning the situation in Central America.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The situation in Central America was last discussed by Ministers in political co-operation at the meeting in Rome on 12 February. It was agreed to send a message of support to the summit meeting of the Contadora Group which will now take place on 21-22 March. A copy of the message has been deposited in the Library of the House. Economic and development co-operation between the Community and Central America was also discussed briefly at the Foreign Affairs Council on 28-29 January.

NATIONAL FINANCE

Lobbying

Mr. Adley asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if, pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Christchurch on 21 February, *Official Report*, column *557*, after the Budget, he will prepare a dossier on the extent and practice of lobbying, with particular reference to its relationship to the instigation of an autumn statement; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Moore: There has been considerable lobbying about taxation matters prior to this year's Budget. The Government consider all representations made to them and take account of them in formulating their Budget.

Customs and Excise (Staff)

Mr. Hill asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give for each of the last five years the average daily ratio of Customs staff on duty to the numbers of travellers entering the United Kingdom through ports of entry.

Mr. Hayhoe: The average daily ratio of uniformed customs preventive staff on duty to the number of travellers entering the United Kingdom for each of the last five years ending 31 March was as follows:

	Ratio
1980	1:56
1981	1:61
1982	1:66
1983	1:70
1984	1:74

Preventive staff control the movements of both passengers and freight.

VAT (Evasion)

Mr. Tom Cox asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what investigations have been made on the evasion of the payment of value added tax by hot pie sellers.

Mr. Hayhoe: Customs and Excise investigates all cases where there is evidence of evasion, or that VAT is not otherwise being accounted for correctly, which are reported to it or which come to light during the course of routine control visits.

EC (Finances)

Mr. Freeman asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the latest cash flow position of the European Community.

Mr. Ian Stewart: The Commission estimates a fluctuating cash deficit during this month which may reach about 550 mecu (£314 million) by the end of March, after the payment of non-VAT own resources collected in February. Consequently the Commission is having recourse to the overdraft facility available under article 12(2) of Regulation 2891/77. This facility does not add to the total own resources available to the Community in 1985.

Mr. Foulkes asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the maximum rate of increase in expenditure other than that necessarily resulting from the treaty fixed by the European Economic Community under article 203 for each year since 1972.

Mr. Ian Stewart: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Sterling Exchange Rate

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will bring up to date the figures given in his written reply of 19 December, *Official Report*, column *188*, to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby on the rate of exchange between the pound sterling and the control reference point of the exchange rate mechanism.

Mr. Ian Stewart [*pursuant to his reply*, 19 March 1985, c. *466*]; The information requested is as follows:

*Sterling/European Currency Unit (ECU) Exchange Rate (end-month rates): percentage change from notional central rate**

	Percentage change
December 1984	−4·84
January 1985	−6·34
February 1985	−4·86
18 March 1985	−3·22

* The relevant notional central rate for sterling against the ECU is 1 ECU=£0·585992.

Extra-Statutory Concessions

Mr. Fisher asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he will publish a list of extra-statutory concessions which he has introduced since May 1979;

(2) whether he will consolidate all Inland Revenue extra-statutory concessions into one publication, specifying in each case the fiscal year in which each concession was introduced.

Mr. Moore [*pursuant to his replies*, 25 February 1985, c. *57*]: Inland Revenue extra-statutory concessions are published in booklet IR1, the current version of which became available in December 1980. Annual supplements have been issued covering changes up to 2 August 1983. A revised version of the booklet incorporating the amendments to date is planned for later this year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Contadora Process

3. **Mr. Sheerman** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with other European Economic Community countries about the Contadora process.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I discuss the situation in central America regularly with my European colleagues.

Mr. Cartwright asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is the policy of Her Majesty's Government towards the Contadora peace process; and if Her Majesty's Government are prepared to contribute to any peace-keeping force that might result from a peace agreement.

Mr. Luce: We and our European Community partners have given firm and consistent support to the efforts of the Contadora Group. We gave practical expression to this support by the meeting of European and regional Foreign Ministers at San Jose in September, attended by my right hon. and learned Friend. It is premature to speculate about our position before any agreement is reached.

Geneva Arms Talks

7. **Mr. Ernie Roberts** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Geneva talks.

22. **Mr. Soames** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Geneva arms talks.

24. **Mrs. Clwyd** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Geneva arms talks.

35. **Mr. Johnston** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of the Geneva arms reduction talks.

65. **Mr. Harris** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the United States-Soviet disarmament talks, which opened in Geneva on 12 March.

Mr. Luce: We warmly welcome the beginning of United States-Soviet talks in Geneva on nuclear and space weapons. They are likely to be long and complex, but the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is united in its support of American efforts to achieve the mutually agreed objective of preventing an arms race in space and terminating the arms race on earth. During her visit last week to Moscow my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made this clear to Mr. Gorbachev.

23. **Mr. Norman Atkinson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the implications for Britain arising from the Geneva talks; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Luce: The Geneva talks are of paramount importance for the security of all nations. Their aim is to maintain deterrence and enhance security with reduced levels of offensive systems on both sides.

26. **Mr. Kirkwood** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what effect European support for the strategic defence initiative will have on the Geneva arms reduction talks.

Mr. Luce: Close consultation between the United States and its European Allies is an essential prerequisite to the success of the talks. We fully support the strategic defence initiative research, which is permitted under international agreements. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Reagan reaffirmed last month, SDI-related deployment would have to be the subject of negotiations with the Soviet Union. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made this clear during her meeting with Mr. Gorbachev last week.

59. **Mr. Strang** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultation he has had with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation partners about the stance of the United States Administration in the Geneva arms talks.

Mr. Luce: We are engaged in close and constant consultations with all our allies, in particular the United States, both bilaterally and multilaterally on these talks. The three American negotiators to the Geneva talks briefed the North Atlantic Council on the American negotiating position on 11 March.

60. **Mr. Heddle** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects for progress towards multilateral disarmament in the light of the round of talks, which opened in Geneva on 12 March.

Mr. Luce: We hope that the opening of United States-Soviet talks will encourage multilateral discussions elsewhere. These include the Geneva conference on disarmament, and in particular, the negotiations for a total ban on chemical weapons, the Stockholm conference on disarmament in Europe (CDE), which is seeking measures to reduce tension in Europe through greater openness about military activities and the mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR) talks in Vienna, where NATO and Warsaw pact countries are negotiating reductions in conventional forces in central Europe.

El Salvador

9. **Mr. Nicholas Brown** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the national assembly elections in El Salvador and the implications for United Kingdom relations with that country.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We welcome the national assembly and municipal elections in El Salvador as a further step in the consolidation of democracy there. We have good relations with El Salvador.

Mr. Cartwright asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government have made its offer of military aid to President Duarte of El Salvador conditional upon progress in the field of human rights in that country.

Mr. Luce: The Salvadorean Government are well aware of our general concern about human rights. President Duarte is publicly committed to ending human rights abuses, strengthening democracy and seeking national reconciliation. We support those objectives.

Central America

13. **Mr. Campbell-Savours** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his merican counterpart concerning United States involvement in Central America.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We are in close and constant touch with the United States Government on matters of mutual interest which include Central America. Most recently I met Secretary of State Shultz in Washington on 21 February.

17. **Mr. Tony Lloyd** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he has made any recent representations to the United States Government in connection with Central America.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We regularly discuss a range of issues, including Central America, with the United States Government at a number of levels. They are fully aware of our views about the region.

52. **Mr. Temple-Morris** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the situation in Central America.

66. **Mr. Alton** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is Her Majesty's Government's policy towards the recent Nicaraguan Government initiative to improve their relations with the United States of America.

Mr. Rifkind: We wish to see an early and comprehensive negotiated settlement of the current tensions in the region. We and our European Community partners have accordingly given firm and consistent support to the efforts of the Contadora Group. We gave practical expression to this support at the meeting of European and regional Foreign Ministers at San Jose in September, attended by my right hon. and learned Friend.

Middle East

14. **Mr. Mark Robinson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what is the policy of the Government towards the Arab-Israeli peace proposals recently put forward by the Egyptian Government.

Mr. Luce: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and my right hon. and learned Friend discussed this subject with President Mubarak last week. We welcome all practical proposals to bring the parties together for negotiations aimed at a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israel dispute.

20. **Mr. Walters** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on progress towards peace in the middle east.

25. **Mr. Anderson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on recent peace initiatives in the middle east.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We remain committed to achieving a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israel dispute which will provide for the Palestinian right to self-determination and Israel's right to exist behind secure borders. We support King Hussein's efforts to arrive at a common Arab position, and President Mubarak's further suggestions in that direction.

68. **Mr. Tom Clarke** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when next he intends to discuss peace initiatives in the middle east with President Reagan.

Mr. Luce: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and my right hon. and learned Friend discussed recent developments in the middle east with President Reagan and the United States Secretary of State during their February visit to Washington. We exchange views regularly with the United States Administration on the prospects for peace in the middle east, and shall continue to do so.

Latin American Debt

15. **Mr. Fisher** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the foreign policy implications of the Latin American debt crisis.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The Latin American debt problem has led to an intensified dialogue between ourselves and the debtor countries of the area. The British Government have played a leading role in promoting co-operation between Governments, international institutions and banks to tackle the problem of international debt.

South Africa

16. **Mr. Fatchett** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when last he met representatives of the South African Government; and what topics were discussed.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The South African ambassador called on me on 21 September 1984 when we discussed bilateral questions, including the situation created by the presence of the six men who had sought refuge in our Durban consulate.

Cyprus

18. **Mr. Hardy** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further action he proposes to take to assist the achievement of a settlement in Cyprus.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We will continue to support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to seek a settlement to the Cyprus question. We shall remain in close touch with all the parties concerned and impress upon them the need to seize the opportunity which the Secretary-General has created.

Indonesia

19. **Mr. Parry** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Her Majesty's Government's relations with Indonesia.

Mr. Luce: We enjoy good relations with Indonesia with which we share an identity of views on many international issues. I know that my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister is looking forward to her visit there next month.

Cardinal Glemp

Mr. Greenway asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent visit to the United Kingdom of the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Glemp.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We welcomed Cardinal Glemp's visit to Britain. His visit from 21 February to 4 March was an ecclesiastical and pastoral one. We were not involved in the arrangements, but I had a private and informal meeting with Cardinal Glemp.

Hong Kong

27. **Sir Peter Blaker** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent talks have taken place between the British and Chinese Governments in the light of last year's agreement on Hong Kong.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Since my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I visited Peking in December last year a number of points related to the implementation of the agreement have been discussed in the course of normal diplomatic contacts with the Chinese Government. I shall inform the House in due course of progress on the establishment of the joint liaison group and on other issues.

Israel

28. **Mr. Neil Thorne** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement about the discussions which took place during his recent visit to Israel.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Leominster (Mr. Temple-Morris) on 14 November at column 672.

Egypt

29. **Mr. Nelson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Anglo-Egyptian relations in the light of the visit to the United Kingdom of the Egyptian President.

56. **Sir John Biggs-Davison** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the recent visit of President Mubarak of Egypt.

Mr. Luce: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bow and Poplar (Mr. Mikardo).

Zimbabwe

30. **Mr. Nellist** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations Her Majesty's Government have made regarding the arrests of trade unionists in Zimbabwe on and after Friday 1 March.

Mr. Rifkind: We have no standing to make formal representations on behalf of non-British citizens. With regard to the British subject detained during the same period, a deportation order has been served on him but not yet implemented. Our high commission has been instructed to tell the Zimbabwean authorities that we hope his case will be speedily resolved.

38. **Mr. Wainwright** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action he is taking within the Commonwealth to inhibit civil conflict in Zimbabwe.

Mr. Rifkind: The domestic affairs of a member are not discussed within the Commonwealth without the express approval of the Government concerned. However, the Zimbabwean authorities are well aware of our hope for a political solution to the problems of Matabeleland and for political reconciliation in general, as well as of our concern about recent reports of abduction and murder. It should be remembered that all the main political parties have been the targets of violence.

VE Day (40th Anniversary)

31. **Mr. Cartwright** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultations he has had with ambassadors and high commissioners of all countries represented in London concerning the planned commemoration of the end of the second world war announced by the Prime Minister on Thursday 14 February.

Mr. Rifkind: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister stated on 14 February, at column 230, in reply to my right hon. Friend the Member for Castle Point, (Sir B. Braine), ambassadors and high commissioners of all countries represented in London will be invited.

Eastern Europe

32. **Mr. Maude** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to visit eastern Europe.

Mr. Rifkind: My right hon. and learned Friend will visit east Berlin from 8 to 10 April, Prague from 10 to 11 April and Warsaw from 11 to 13 April.

Middle East (Ministerial Visit)

33. **Mr. Latham** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will make a statement on the recent visit to the middle east by the Minister of State, the hon. Member for Shoreham (Mr. Luce).

Mr. Luce: Between 3 and 7 March I visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. I had a very useful set of discussions with leading figures in both countries, including King Fahd in Saudi Arabia. I was able to review the very satisfactory state of our bilateral relations and exchange views on major international issues, particularly the Arab-Israel dispute, Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Nicaragua

34. **Sir William van Straubenzee** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has any plans for an early visit to Nicaragua.

Mr. Rifkind: My right hon. and learned Friend has no plans at present to visit Nicaragua.

Falkland Islands

36. **Sir John Farr** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Falkland Islands Council concerning the development of mineral resources in the seas around the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Rifkind: We are in regular contact with the Falkland Islands Government, through the civil commissioner about this and other economic issues.

43. **Mr. Home Robertson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the document on the future of the Falklands agreed by parliamentary delegations from the United Kingdom and Argentina at recent talks in the United States of America, a copy of which has been sent to him.

50. **Mr. Foulkes** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he has considered

the paper on the future of the Falklands agreed by parliamentary delegations from the United Kingdom and Argentina in recent talks in the United States of America, a copy of which has been sent to him; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Rifkind: My right hon. and learned Friend has carefully studied the document adopted at the Maryland conference. It refers to a discussion with Argentina of "all aspects of the future of the Islands;" but this is no more than a euphemism for the discussion of sovereignty. The document then reiterates the Argentine insistence of linkage between discussion of practical ways to improve our bilateral relations and discussion of sovereignty, which remains the obstacle to progress.

We are not prepared to discuss the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. The way ahead must be through agreement on practical issues of interest of both this country and Argentina. We look to the Argentine Government for a constructive reply to the message we sent them earlier this year.

Brazil

37. **Rev. Martin Smyth** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has plans to meet representatives of the new Government of Brazil to discuss ways of increasing co-operation between Great Britain and Brazil.

Mr. Rifkind: My right hon. and learned Friend has no plans to do so at present. But my right hon. and noble Friend the Lord President of the Council had an opportunity to discuss a number of bilateral issues when he attended the inauguration of the new President of Brazil, Dr. Tancredo Neves, on 15 March.

Human Rights (Afghanistan)

39. **Mr. Bright** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken at the United Nations to expose violations of human rights in Afghanistan.

Mr. Rifkind: We have spoken out firmly and frequently against the immense human suffering inflicted on the Afghan people by the continuing Soviet occupation. The United Kingdom supported the recommendation of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur on Afghanistan. We co-sponsored the resolution adopted by the Commission last week expressing profound concern at grave and massive human rights violations and renewing the rapporteur's mandate for a further year.

Mr. Abu Nidhal

40. **Mrs. Renée Short** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Syrian Government about the terrorist activities of Mr. Abu Nidhal, now based in Syria.

Mr. Luce: We have made known to the Syrian Government on a number of occasions our strong views on international terrorism. They are fully aware of the serious concern felt in this country about the activities of the Abu Nidhal Group.

South Africa (Uranium)

41. **Mr. Caborn** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if it remains Her Majesty's Government's policy not to purchase uranium from South Africa.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: It is our policy not to assist South Africa in the development of its military and civil nuclear programmes. It has never been our policy to prohibit the purchase of uranium from South Africa, since that does not constitute such assistance.

Mutual Assistance (USA)

42. **Mr. Dalyell** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if Her Majesty's Government have sought to negotiate with the United States Government since 1979 any new agreements for mutual assistance outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation area.

Mr. Luce: Any negotiations between us and the United States Government on matters of mutual interest outside the NATO area remain confidential between Governments.

Privatisation

44. **Mr. Thurnham** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what are the estimated savings by his Department for 1985-86 as a result of privatisation schemes.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The privatisation of the overseas development unit of the hydraulics research station in 1982 will result in estimated savings of some £80,000 to the Overseas Development Administration in 1985-86.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is in addition contracting out a number of services and this is being extended. The diplomatic wing will save an estimated £737,775 in 1985-86 from travel and cleaning services contracted out during the current financial year. The aid wing will save an estimated £138,000 from the contracting out of official travel, cleaning and press cutting services.

Namibia (Contract Five Group)

45. **Mr. Robert Banks** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next intends to review the work of the Contact Five Group in relation to progress and new initiatives for achieving independence for Namibia.

Mr. Rifkind: My right hon. and learned Friend keeps in close touch with his Contact Group colleagues. They continue to examine ways in which they could make a constructive contribution to achieving Namibian independence. But clearly it would not be helpful to take initiatives which would cut across the current negotiations towards a settlement.

Soviet Foreign Minister

46. **Mr. Bowen Wells** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if a date has yet been fixed for the planned visit to the United Kingdom of the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: No. Dates are under discussion on diplomatic channels.

Decade for Women

47. **Mr. Forth** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to reduce the amount of money to be spent on sending a delegation to the United Nations End of Decade for Women conference.

Mr. Rifkind: The composition of our delegation to the world conference of the United Nations Decade for Women was announced on 15 March. It is similar to that of our delegations to the two previous world conferences of the Decade although, in the interests of economy, the number of supporting officials has been reduced.

Libya

48. **Mr. Ron Brown** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Britain's relations with Libya.

Mr. Luce: British and Libyan officials met in Rome on 5 March at Libyan request and through the good offices of the Italian protecting power. This was a useful opportunity to exchange information, reduce possible misunderstandings, and discuss administrative and other practical problems. The British side sought clarification of some recent statements by Colonel Gaddafi.

South African Ambassador

49. **Mrs. Beckett** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the visit of the South African ambassador to the Foreign Office on 25 February.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: My hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, Pentlands (Mr. Rifkind) discussed with the South African ambassador recent developments in South Africa. He made clear that we welcomed recent positive developments but were concerned at the arrest of United Democratic Front leaders and in particular that four UDF supporters were detained without charge.

New Zealand

51. **Mr. Hirst** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Britain's diplomatic relations with New Zealand.

63. **Mr. Bellingham** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Anglo-New Zealand relations in the light of Mr. David Lange's recent visit.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Our relations with New Zealand are excellent, and we keep in close touch with the New Zealand Government. I had a meeting with Mr. Lange in New York last autumn and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister held talks with him in London on 4 March.

Human Rights (USSR)

53. **Mr. Allen MacKay** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will seek an opportunity to raise individual cases of abuse of human rights in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the forthcoming Ottawa meeting to discuss CSCE issues.

Mr. Rifkind: It is not our practice to give a commitment in advance of such discussions to raise individual cases but they are something we shall have very much in mind when the Ottawa meeting discusses, as its mandate requires it to do, questions concerning respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as embodied in the Helsinki final act.

Southern Lebanon

54. **Mr. Marlow** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports from the United Kingdom ambassador in Beirut about the situation in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Richard Luce: We receive regular reports from Her Majesty's ambassador and his staff about the situation in south Lebanon.

Human Rights (Chile)

55. **Mr. Frank Cook** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Britain's voting record at the United Nations on Chilean human rights.

Mr. Rifkind: I refer the hon. Member to the replies given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 28 and 31 January, at columns 23-24 and 299, to the hon. Member for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley (Mr. Foulkes). Since then we have voted in favour of the resolution on Chile at the 1985 session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Diplomatic Service (Business Men)

57. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will seek to recruit and second more business men into the commercial sections of the Diplomatic Service.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The Diplomatic Service is keen to attract more people with business experience, though our general policy remains to recruit, through the Civil Service Commission, for a varied long-term career, and not for specific posts.

In 1982, we raised the age limit for entry to the administration grades from 28 to 32, with the specific aim of attracting candidates with relevant experience. The age limit for entry to the executive grades is 45. In 1983 we held an additional special competition open to candidates between 32 and 41, which succeeded in recruiting four offices at first secretary level from outside the Civil Service.

The Diplomatic Service also operates a programme of interchange of staff with private industry and commerce. Secondments last for two or three years; at present, 10 Diplomatic Service officers are seconded to British companies, and two posts within the Diplomatic Service are filled by private sector secondees. It is a valuable exchange which we hope to continue and expand.

Polaris

58. **Mr. Barron** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will recommend the inclusion of the British Polaris weapons system in the Geneva talks.

Mr. Luce: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Leeds, West (Mr. Meadowcroft).

Honduras

61. **Mr. Sean Hughes** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next intends to visit Honduras.

Mr. Rifkind: My right hon. and learned Friend has no plans at present to do so.

Iran-Iraq War

62. **Dr. M. S. Miller** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether, based on recent contacts with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, there are any new moves that could be made to help resolve the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Luce: During my recent visit to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, I discussed the conflict in the Gulf at length, with particular reference to the need to bring it to an early end by diplomatic means. Both of those countries wish, as we do, to see the earliest possible end to this tragic and wasteful conflict. For their part, the British Government will continue to support any realistic initiatives aimed at ending the conflict—for example, through the good offices of the United Nations Secretary-General.

CSCE Conference on Human Rights

64. **Mr. David Atkinson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the forthcoming CSCE conference on human rights in Ottawa.

Mr. Rifkind: The United Kingdom intends to play a full and active part in this meeting which we regard as an important part of the Helsinki process.

In our view, the meeting should both consider the functioning of the human rights' provisions of the Helsinki final act since they were first drawn up and look forward at possible new measures to advance the cause of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the 35 CSCE participating states.

This two-stage approach reflects the mandate for the meeting agreed at Madrid in 1983 and set out in the Madrid concluding document (Cmnd. 9066).

Nelson Mandela

67. **Mr. Gould** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if Her Majesty's Government will make a further appeal to the South African President for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister told the South African Prime Minister last year of our belief that Mr. Mandela should be released. We have continued to press for this.

El Salvador (Officer Training)

69. **Mr. McKelvey** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects officers from the El Salvador military to begin training in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Rifkind: I have nothing to add to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Mid-Sussex (Mr. Renton) to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Broadgreen (Mr. Fields) on 15 February at column 302.

Chile

70. **Mr. Martin** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on relations with Chile.

Mr. Rifkind: We maintain normal diplomatic relations with Chile and continue to express our concern at the need for an early return to political dialogue and democracy. Following the recent earthquake, we have given £80,000 of disaster relief through Caritas, the Chilean Red Cross and Christian Aid and are considering what further measures we might take to help the homeless.

Mrs. Oksana Mehko

Mr. Sackville asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Soviet Government concerning the five-year sentence of internal exile following ten years in labour camps, passed on Mrs. Oksana Mehko, founder member of the Ukranian Helsinki Monitoring Group.

Mr. Luce: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and my right hon. and learned Friend both raised the subject of human rights with Mr. Gorbachev in December. They made clear with reference to individuals exemplifying different categories of human rights abuse the concern that is felt on this issue by the Government, on both sides of the House and by the British public at large. The case of Mrs. Mehko is a particularly poignant example of such abuses and will certainly be borne in mind, along with others, in future representations to the Soviet authorities.

Bophuthatswana

Sir John Biggs-Davison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if, pursuant to the answer of 1 March, *Official Report*, column 307, to the hon. Member for Epping Forest, he will state in what ways Bophuthatswana does not enjoy genuine independence.

Mr. Luce: Amongst the criteria for recognition is that the country in question shall have an independent position, in the sense that it has full internal autonomy as well as full freedom of action in respect of external relations. We are not satisfied that Bophuthatswana, which came into existence as a result of South Africa's apartheid policies, possesses these attributes.

Africa (Independent States)

Sir John Biggs-Davison asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs why Her Majesty's Government recognise as independent states in Africa dependent upon economic, military and other assistance from outside.

Mr. Luce: The receipt of external economic, military or other assistance, does not necessarily detract from the attributes of a defined territory, an effective Government, and independence in its internal autonomy and external relations which are the criteria for recognition.

Saudi Arabia (Ministerial Visit)

Mr. Mason asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether, during the visit of the Minister of State to Saudi Arabia, he protested about the recent sentence of flogging passed on a British subject, Mr. John Kelly; and whether he discussed the methods of punishment employed by the Saudi authorities.

Mr. Luce: I made clear to my Saudi hosts that differences of culture, law and tradition could give rise to strong feelings in both countries which they and we should work to overcome. Her Majesty's embassy in Jedda had already expressed to the local Saudi authorities its concern at the severity of the sentence passed on Mr. Kelly.

As my hon. Friend the Member for Wycombe (Mr. Whitney) said on 27 June 1984, at column 981, we accept that there is concern in Britain over the methods of punishment employed in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi authorities have been made aware that the administration of strokes of the cane is abhorrent to British opinion. Most expatriates are well aware that corporal punishment is almost invariably imposed in cases of breaches of the Saudi law relating to alcohol. I understand that the ordeal is not intended to inflict severe pain. It is intended more as a humiliation than as a physical punishment.

Gibraltar

Mr. McQuarrie asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals Her Majesty's Government have received from the Spanish Government on the future status of Gibraltar.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: As foreshadowed by the Spanish Foreign Minister during our meeting in Geneva on 5 February, the Spanish Government have delivered proposals concerning the future status of Gibraltar. Whilst the details of these proposals must remain confidential at this stage, they involve suggestions for the eventual transfer of sovereignty, including a period of shared responsibility. These proposals are of course being studied against the background of our undertaking to respect the freely and democratically expressed wishes of the people of Gibraltar, enshrined in the preamble to Gibraltar's 1969 constitution.

Mr. McQuarrie asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he has any plans to meet the Spanish Foreign Minister to discuss Spanish claims for the integration of Gibraltar with Spain at some future date.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The terms of the Brussels agreement implemented on 5 February provided for the establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all differences over Gibraltar and at promoting co-operation in various fields on a mutually beneficial basis. I intend to meet the Spanish Foreign Minister in this context towards the end of this year.

In those discussions I shall have very much in mind the pledge enshrined in the Gibraltar constitution of 1969 that we will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes.

Hong Kong (Refugees)

Mr. Canavan asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will make a statement about the treatment of refugees in Hong Kong.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Under the provisions of the Hong Kong Immigration Ordinance, all Vietnamese refugees arriving in Hong Kong are permitted to remain in the territory pending their resettlement elsewhere. During their stay they are accommodated in closed centres run by the Hong Kong Government in co-operation with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Both we and the Hong Kong authorities are making every effort, in consultation with United Nations High Commission for Refugees, to secure a durable solution for all those still in the camps.

SCOTLAND

Labour Statistics

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what are *(a)* the total levels of unemployment, *(b)* the number of schoolleavers unemployed and *(c)* the number unemployed for more than one, two and three years, respectively, for the Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency for the latest available date and for the equivalent date in 1984, 1983, 1982, 1981 and 1980, respectively.

Mr. Allan Stewart: I regret the information is not available in the form requested. Unemployment figures by constituency are available in the House of Commons Library, but only from June 1983. The Library can, however, supply, for the period requested, information on unemployment by duration and the number of unemployed school leavers for the Cumnock, Ayr and Girvan jobcentre areas within which the constituency is located. The figures are not directly comparable over the years because of the change to a claimant based count in October 1982.

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people are unemployed in the Glasgow, Pollok constituency compared with 1979 as a total and a percentage; and of the total unemployed, how many are long-term unemployed.

Mr. Allan Stewart: I regret the information is not available in the precise form requested. As the hon. Member will know from my right hon. Friend's letter of 22 October 1984, unemployment totals for parliamentary constituencies are only available from June 1983 and can be obtained from the Library. The Library can also supply information on the number of unemployed and long-term unemployed persons (that is those without employment for more than a year) in the Shawlands, Govan and Barrhead jobcentre areas—within which the Pollok constituency is located—at January 1985, the latest date for which the information is available, and January 1979. The figures are not directly comparable because of the change in October 1982 in the basis of the count. Unemployment percentage rates are not calculated for areas smaller than travel-to-work areas.

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how many jobs were lost in the industrial classification sectors of industries in Glasgow in each year since 1979.

Mr. Allan Stewart: The information requested is not available, but the results of the 1984 census of employment are expected later in the year.

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the total of employed persons in the Glasgow travel-to-work area for each year since 1970.

Mr. Allan Stewart: The available information relates to estimates of the numbers of employees in employment in the Glasgow travel-to-work area* for each of the years 1971 to 1978, and for 1981; and is as follows:

	Numbers
1971	552,400
1972	542,300
1973	555,700
1974	553,300
1975	548,700
1976	547,100
1977	535,000
1978	527,500
1981	479,700

* As defined prior to the 1984 review.

These figures are taken from the census of employment, which was annual up to 1978 and has been taken every three years since then. Figures from the 1984 census will be available shortly.

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the measures taken to reduce the level of unemployment in the Glasgow travel-to-work area since May 1979.

Mr. Allan Stewart: The Government's overall policies, designed to reduce the previously high levels of inflation and to offer real incentive for enterprise, provide the framework within which more jobs can be created. Our programme includes a heavy investment in training, through the youth training scheme and the adult training strategy, to produce a better trained, adaptable, skilled work force to meet the changing skill requirements of this new technological age. Glasgow, as other parts of the country, can expect to derive benefit from these overall policies. Specific measures taken by us since May 1979 to assist the economic development of and reduce the level of unemployment in the Glasgow travel-to-work area include:—

Economic Measures:

Regional Development Grant at the maximum level available;
Selective Financial Assistance under the Industrial Development Act 1982;
Scottish Development Agency Financial Assistance (for example, to Glasgow Eastern Area Renewal project);
Local Enterprise Grants for Urban Projects (the LEG-UP scheme);
Financial Assistance under the Housing Acts.

Special Employment Measures:

Youth Opportunities Programme;
Youth Employment Subsidy;
Young Workers Scheme;
Community Industry;
Job Creation Programme;
Special Temporary Employment Programme;
Community Enterprise Programme;
Community Programme;
Temporary Short-time Working Compensation;
Job Release Scheme;
Job Splitting Scheme;
Temporary Employment Subsidy;
Small Firms Employment Subsidy;
Enterprise Allowance Scheme;
Voluntary Projects Programme;
Geographical Mobility Schemes;
Services for Seriously Disabled.

Edinburgh Western Relief Road (Inquiry)

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Scotland when the transcript of the evidence in the recent inquiry by parliamentary commissioners into the Lothian Region (Edinburgh Western Relief Road) Provisional Order will be available to hon. Members.

Mr. Ancram: A transcript of the evidence will be placed in the Library of each House, probably towards the end of April.

Scottish Development Agency (Grants and Loans)

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will seek from the chairman of the Scottish Development Agency information about grants or loans awarded by the agency over the past six months to individuals whose financial affairs had at the time been put in trust; if he will publish details in the *Official Report;* and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Allan Stewart [*pursuant to his reply,* 14 March 1985, c. *446*]: I understand that the Scottish Development Agency would not award a grant or loan to an individual whose financial affairs it knew to have been placed in trust. Nor is the agency aware of any case where a grant or loan was awarded to an individual whose financial affairs were discovered subsequently to have been in trust at the time of the award.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 21 March 1985

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Non-payment of Rent

Mr. Andrew F. Bennett asked the Attorney-General how many people were evicted for non-payment of rent in 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985, respectively.

The Solicitor-General: Statistics are not collected of the number of people evicted specifically for non-payment of rent. It is, however, estimated that in England and Wales the following number of warrants were executed for possession of residential property (for whatever reason) on behalf of private landlords and social landlords (mainly local authorities).

	1982	*1983*	*1984*
Private landlords	3,120	3,220	3,480
Social landlords	11,960	10,150	10,110

These estimates are based on a sample of three separate months data (February, June and October) collected during each of the years shown. No figures are yet available for 1985.

TRANSPORT

Road Building (Costs)

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Transport what is the current average cost of constructing one mile of *(a)* dual two-lane motorway, *(b)* dual three-lane motorway, *(c)* dual two-lane urban motorway, *(d)* dual three-lane urban motorway, *(e)* all purpose dual two-lane carriageway, *(f)* all purpose dual three-lane carriageway and *(g)* single carriageway.

Mrs. Chalker: The information requested is as follows:

(a) £3 million.
(b) £5 million.
(c) £7 million.
(d) £10 million.
(e) £3 million.
(f) No figures available.
(g) £1 million.

All figures are at current prices and cover works only. Costs of land, rehousing, preparation and supervision and so on add between 20 and 25 per cent. to total costs. The figures given are averages. Construction costs of motorways and trunk roads vary widely depending in particular on the nature of the terrain through which the road passes.

Road Building (Contracts)

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the 20 contractors who have received the largest share of motorway and trunk road construction contracts in each of the last three years, giving for each contractor the value of the contracts received.

Mrs. Chalker: During each of the three yars 1982, 1983 and 1984 motorway and trunk road construction contracts over £100,000 in value were awarded as follows:

1982	*£ million*
1. A. Monk & Co. Plc	33·4
2. Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son Limited*	29·9
3. Tarmac Construction Limited	21·1
4. John Laing Construction Limited	20·1
5. John Mowlem & Co. Limited	18·5
6. Fairclough Civil Engineering Limited*	15·5
7. Balfour Beatty Ltd.	14·1
8. Cementation Construction Ltd.	9·5
9. Norwest Holst Civil Engineering Ltd.	7·8
10. M. J. Gleeson Group plc	5·9
11. May Gurney & Co. Ltd.	4·6
12. Roadworks (1952) Ltd.	3·9
13. R. M. Douglas Construction Ltd.	3·26
14. Dowsett Engineering Construction Ltd.	3·25
15. Peter Birse Ltd.	3·0
16. Galliford & Sons Ltd.	2·6
17. Marples Ridgeway Ltd.	2·2
18. Costain Civil Engineering Ltd.	2·1
19. Eden Construction Ltd.	1·8
20. Droitwich Construction Co. Ltd.	0·9

* In addition, Fairclough Civil Engineering Ltd. and Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son Ltd. in consortium were awarded one other contract valued at £19·4 million.

1983	*£ million*
1. John Laing Construction Ltd.	38·6
2. Balfour Beatty Ltd.	31·3
3. Dowsett Engineering Construction Ltd.	28·4
4. Wimpey Construction UK Ltd.	25·3
5. Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son Ltd.	16·7
6. John Mowlem & Co. Ltd	16·5
7. May Gurney & Co. Ltd.	14·7
8. Edmund Nuttall Ltd.	13·7
9. A. F. Budge Ltd.	10·9
10. Tarmac Construction Ltd.	8·4
11. RDL Contracting Ltd.	7·4
12. Wrekin Construction Ltd.	5·2
13. Amey Roadstone Construction Ltd.	3·4
14. Brims & Co. Ltd.	2·3
15. D & H Contractors (Cambridge) Ltd.	2·0
16. Associated Asphalt Co. Ltd.	1·9
17. C. J. Pearce & Co. Ltd.	1·6
18. Christiani & Nielsen Ltd.	1·6
19. Johnston Construction Ltd.	1·4
20. Durham County Council Direct Labour Organisation	1·0

Cementation Construction Ltd. and Costain Civil Engineering Ltd. in consortium were awarded one contract valued at £44·5 million.

Bovis Civil Engineering Ltd. and Peter Birse Ltd. in consortium were awarded one contract valued at £14·7 million.

1984	*£ million*
1. Tarmac Construction Ltd.	64·8
2. Balfour Beatty Ltd.	45·9
3. Edmund Nuttall Ltd.	28·7
4. Cementation Construction Ltd.*	26·5
5. Fairclough Civil Engineering Ltd.†	22·8
6. A. F. Budge (Contractors) Ltd.	16·7
7. R. M. Douglas Construction Ltd.	15·3
8. M. J. Gleeson Group plc	8·2
9. John Laing Construction Ltd.	7·8
10. Rush & Tompkins Ltd.	6·3
11. French Kier Construction Ltd.	6·1
12. A. E. Farr Ltd.	5·8
13. Roadworks (1952) Ltd.	5·7
14. Amey Roadstone Construction Ltd.	3·2
15. Henry Boot Civil Engineering Ltd.	2·4
16. Kottler & Heron Construction Ltd.	1·8

1984	£ million
17. A. Monk & Co. plc	1·3
18. Droitwich Construction Co. Limited	1·2
19. C. J. Pea[illegible] & Co. Limited	1·1
20. Kimbell Construction Limited	0·6

* In addition, Cementation Construction Ltd. and Costain Civil Engineering Ltd. in consortium were awarded one other contract valued at £5·9 million.

† In addition, Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son Limited and Fairclough Civil Engineering Limited in consortium were awarded one other contract valued at £26·9 million.

Trunk Roads

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list in the *Official Report* figures for miles and costs in 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 for trunk road new construction, structural maintenance and routine maintenance.

Mrs. Chalker: For England, the information requested is as follows:

	1983-84 Outturn		*1984-85 Forecast*		*1985-86 Planned*	
	Expenditure £ million (net)	*Miles completed*	*Expenditure £ million (net)*	*Miles completed*	*Expenditure £ million (net)*	*Miles completed*
New construction	514	95	578	73	599	98
Capital maintenance (structural)	130	188	150	227	144	177
Current maintenance (routine)	63	N/A	79	N/A	79	N/A

Notes:

1. Expenditure figures include payments for work still under way at the end of the year.
2. Capital maintenance expenditure figures include purchases of vehicles and equipment for winter maintenance as well as structural maintenance work.
3. Current maintenance expenditure figures include lighting, motorway communications and winter maintenance and other miscellaneous items as well as routine maintenance.
4. All mileage figures are expressed as route miles completed.

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he will give an estimated breakdown of the trunk road budget into the following components: land acquisition, design, road safety, administration, labour, purchase of materials and other.

Mrs. Chalker: The Supply Estimates in Class VI, 1, Roads etc, England, published 19 March make provision for expenditure of £824 million. A breakdown by components for new construction is as follows:

	£ million
Land acquisition	49
Design and Supervision	90
Labour	120
Purchase of materials	251
Plant	109

The component for maintenance and miscellaneous items is £231 million; road safety £5 million. Estimated receipts are some £30 million. There is provision for £25 million administration costs in Class VI, 2.

Bitumen Coated Materials

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Transport how many tonnes of bitumen coated materials are used each year in his Department's road programme.

Mrs. Chalker: My Department does not compile central records of the amount of bitumen coated materials used each year in the national road programme on construction or maintenance works.

New Road Schemes

Mr. David Marshall asked the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of new road schemes he expects will be let in rigid construction in 1985-86; and how this compares with 1984-85 and 1983-84.

Mrs. Chalker: The proportion of new road schemes to be let in rigid construction in 1985-86 cannot be estimated since it is dependent on the value of alternative tenders which have yet to be submitted by contractors. Some 23 per cent. of schemes were let in rigid construction in the first three quarters of 1984-85 and 46 per cent. in 1983-84.

Passenger Trains (Punctuality)

Mr. Pawsey asked the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of passenger trains arrive on time.

Mr. David Mitchell: I understand from British Rail that during 1984, 77 per cent. of its passenger trains arrived on time and 90·5 per cent. within five minutes of scheduled time.

Transport Supplementary Grant

Mr. Sheerman asked the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer given in the *Official Report* on 11 March, column 51, if he will amend the criteria for eligibility for transport supplementary grant so as to include small low-cost engineering schemes on roads other than those of more than local importance in order to give incentives to highway authorities to carry out cost-effective improvement schemes for accident reduction.

Mrs. Chalker: Local authorities should not need special financial incentives to carry out cost-effective improvement schemes on roads of only local importance. They receive general support through block grant, and it is for them to determine their expenditure priorities.

South Stack (Disappearance)

Mr. Hoyle asked the Secretary of State for Transport what conclusions his Department's inquiry reached in relation to the disappearance of the South Stack in the North sea; and if he will place a copy of the report in the Library.

Mr. David Mitchell: It has not been possible to establish with certainty the reason for the loss of this vessel but the most probable explanation is that she capsized. It is not the practice to publish inquiry reports of this kind, but the facts are always made available to interested parties. This is to be done shortly in the case of the South Stack.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr. Sheerman asked the Secretary of State for Transport if he has any plans to amend the spray suppression regulations for heavy goods vehicles.

Mrs. Chalker: The Department has been consulting on an amendment to exempt certain special trailers, built to carry abnormal indivisible loads, on which it is not practicable to fit the prescribed spray suppression equipment.

Seat Belts

Mr. Hickmet asked the Secretary of State for Transport when he will publish a report on the effects of compulsory seat belt wearing.

Mrs. Chalker: The TRRL will shortly be issuing a preliminary report on the effects of compulsion based on evidence from the first 12 months. A copy will be placed in the Libraries.

My Department will be publishing, during the summer, a full report on the results of its seat belt monitoring exercise. This will take account of the data analysis undertaken in the Department itself and at the TRRL and will also draw on accident and injury studies carried out in a number of hospitals and at universities. In addition, I have invited Professor James Durbin and Professor Andrew Harvey of the London School of Economics to contribute an independent assessment of all the available statistical evidence on the effects of compulsory seat belt wearing in this country. Professors Durbin and Harvey will want to take account of the views of outside organisations and individuals in preparing their assessment.

ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Reform

Mr. Amess asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what steps he intends to take to prevent activities of the Greater London council which are designed to frustrate the Government's abolition proposals.

Mr. Kenneth Baker: On 24 July last my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced his intention to seek powers in the Local Government Bill requiring his consent to be obtained to the provision of financial assistance by the GLC-MCCs to other local authorities. That provision is now in clause 89 of the Bill, and it supplements the controls in the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Act 1984 over section 137 expenditure, major contracts and property disposals. At the same time, my right hon. Friend said that he would not hesitate to take further steps, where necessary, to prevent continuing activity designed to frustrate the Government's abolition proposals.

The Bill provides that rights and liabilities of the GLC-MCCs existing at abolition will pass to successor authorities. It has been brought to my notice that some of the abolition authorities will seek to exploit this provision with the intention of perpetuating their policies long after they are abolished and thereby putting at risk the savings that will result from abolition. They would achieve this by creating continuing liabilities for successor authorities. The most notable example of such arrangements concerns legally enforceable undertakings to provide, or to guarantee, financial assistance to third parties.

My right hon. Friend has therefore tabled an amendment to the Local Government Bill which will have the effect of requiring the Secretary of State's consent to any enforceable agreement or arrangement proposed to be made by the GLC or an MCC under which a liability would pass, on abolition, to successor authorities.

The control over contracts in section 9 of the Interim Provisions Act contains a disaggregation provision designed to prevent large contracts from being broken up into separate units, each below the relevant value thresholds. I am aware that this provision is being interpreted narrowly by some of the authorities. I therefore propose to amend the Act to reduce the minimum value above which consent is required to £15,000.

I have given careful consideration to the sanctions that should be applied for a failure to obtain consent in the case of both the existing controls over land disposals and contracts, and those now proposed over other enforceable agreements and arrangements. I am proposing that the existing sanction of a liability to disqualification by the High Court from local government office should also apply to a failure to comply with the new provisions. The right to apply to the court will, in addition, extend to a successor authority.

I am concerned, however, that in the face of the continuing threats of grossly irresponsible activity by some of the abolition authorities, this sanction will not by itself, prove to be a sufficient deterrent. I am proposing that the court should also be empowered in each case to order the member responsible to be the subject of a financial penalty, in the terms defined in the relevant clauses. And in order to protect successor authorities absolutely from damaging actions, I am proposing that where the Secretary of State's consent under the provisions is not obtained, any disposal of any interest in land would be totally void, and that any contract, or any other enforceable agreement or arrangement, capable of surviving beyond abolition, would be unenforceable against a successor authority.

I am aware that an abolition authority's failure to obtain consent under the provisions would affect the interests of third parties. I am therefore taking steps to give publicity to the proposals in order to ensure that their potential effect is widely understood.

In the light of past experience of the authorities' willingness to evade the consequences of new legislation before it takes effect, and continuing threats of irresponsible activity, the amendments which my right hon. Friend has tabled to the Local Government Bill will, with Parliament's consent, take effect from midnight tonight.

In principle, I would propose that the general consents issued under sections 7, 8 and 9 of the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Act 1984 should be extended to activities covered by the proposed new controls over enforceable arrangements. I shall also be considering the issue of further general consents for activities which leave no scope for obstructive action. These might include, for example, commitments by ILEA to voluntary schools and grants to individual students, together with grants by the GLC under the homes insulation scheme, and certain grants for home improvement. Letters have today been sent to the GLC and metropolitan county councils notifying them of these proposals and inviting suggestions for general consents.

New Towns

Mr. Dormand asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he has now reached a conclusion on the future of the three north-east new towns.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: In May 1984 we sought the views of the local authorities concerned in the development of the three new towns of Aycliffe, Peterlee, and Washington on the future of these towns. We also asked other interested bodies and individuals to let us have their views. We asked for comment particularly on whether the purposes for which the development corporations were established had been substantially achieved, and on the target date of 31 December 1985 which had been set for winding up the three development corporations. The response to these consultations showed clearly the high opinion held locally of the value of the work done by these corporations, and that there was scope for this to continue. The Government have accordingly concluded that it would be appropriate to defer the winding-up date to 31 March 1988.

Between now and then we shall expect the corporations to pursue their work in developing industry and commerce in their towns, and with that the generation of jobs, relying to the maximum on private investment. We shall also expect them, in consultation with the Commission for the New Towns, the English Industrial Estates Corporation (for the industrial estates), and local organisations, to prepare satisfactory arrangements for the period after 31 March 1988.

Since 1963 Aycliffe and Peterlee development corporations have had the same membership. In order to simplify the management and administration of their work, we shall consult them about using the powers under section 6 of the New Towns Act 1981 to bring them into a single corporation.

Reema Waffle Houses

Mr. Hind asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if Reema Waffle houses are included in the designated list of houses attracting buy-back or repair grants under the provisions of the Housing Defects Act 1984.

Mr. Gow: No. The only type of Reema house designated under the Act is the Reema hollow panel type.

Local Authorities (Housing Expenditure)

Dr. Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish *(a)* gross and *(b)* net capital expenditure by each local authority on housing and *(c)* current expenditure on repairs and maintenance to existing housing stock in each year from 1981-82 to 1984-85, estimate.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: English local authorities' gross capital expenditure on housing and prescribed proportion of housing capital receipts appear for 1981-82 and 1982-83 in tables attached to my Department's press notices No. 273 (27 July 1982) and No. 290 (18 July 1983), respectively, and for 1983-84 in the table referred to in the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Construction to my hon. Friend the Member for Mid-Staffordshire (Mr. Heddle) on 20 July 1984, at column 360. The 1981-82 and 1982-83 editions of "Housing Revenue Account Statistics Actuals", published by CIPFA, show the authorities' expenditure on repair and maintenance. All these sources are available in the Library.

I have today placed in the Library a table showing authorities' capital expenditure and receipts in the first nine months of 1984-85 and another showing their reported expenditure on repair and maintenance in 1983-84 and estimates for 1984-85.

Local Authority Finance

Dr. Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish *(a)* gross and *(b)* net capital expenditure by each local authority in England in each year from 1981-82 to 1984-85 (estimates), showing the total for each class of authority.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: Figures for capital payments and receipts by local authorities in England in 1981-82 to 1983-84 are published in the CIPFA publications "Capital Expenditure and Debt Financing Statistics" for those years. Copies of these are held in the Library. Estimates of 1984-85 expenditure by individual authorities or by class of authority are not available. The latest forecast for total net local authority capital expenditure in England against the DOE-LAI cash limit in the current year is £3·2 billion.

Council Houses

Mr. Andrew F. Bennett asked the Secretary of State for the Environment how many local authority dwellings were let to new tenants in the year 1983-84, by region *(a)* through the waiting list normal allocation and *(b)* other.

Sir George Young: The information provided by local authorities in their annual housing investment programme returns is as follows:

Local authority dwellings let to new tenants 1983-84

thousands

Standard regions	*Secure tenancies:*		**Not secure tenancies*
	Normal allocation from waiting lists	*Other*	
Northern	17·4	6·2	0·6
Yorkshire and Humberside	24·4	7·4	1·1
East Midlands	17·3	4·0	0·8
East Anglia	5·8	2·2	0·5
Greater London	13·6	22·0	1·6
Rest of South East	21·8	9·4	2·5
South West	10·1	4·5	0·8
West Midlands	20·6	8·9	0·7
North West	30·1	10·5	1·3
England	161·0	75·0	9·9

* Defined in schedule 3 to the Housing Act 1980.

Nature Conservancy Council

Mr. Ron Davies asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what guidance he gives to the Nature Conservancy Council concerning the extent to which, as part of its overall function, it has a duty to represent the views of voluntary nature conservation organisations in meetings with any other statutory authorities.

Mr. Waldegrave: The Nature Conservancy Council has no statutory duty to represent the views of voluntary nature conservation organisations in meetings with other statutory authorities. The council is willing to receive representations from voluntary bodies: but it is for it to decide how best to draw on them in its discussions with other statutory authorities.

House of Commons Sittings (Cost)

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will up-date the figures given in reply to the hon. Member for Cheltenham (Mr. Irving) *Official Report*, 25 April 1984, column *526*, regarding the total additional cost to his Department of the House sitting from *(a)* 10.30 pm to midnight and *(b)* from midnight to 2 am; and if he will give similar estimates for such periods after 2 am as figures are conveniently available.

Sir George Young: I shall answer this question shortly.

Home Purchase Scheme

Mr. John Morris asked the Secretary of State for the Environment when the home purchase scheme for primarily first time buyers was first set up; what were the financial limits then; and if he has any proposed plans to upgrade the amounts.

Sir George Young: The home purchase assistances scheme was set up in 1978. It offers first-time purchasers a loan of £600, free of interest and repayment of principal for up to five years, and a cash bonus of up to £110. These benefits are available to first-time buyers who have saved under the scheme for two years and who buy a property below the house price limit for their area. Separate house price limits are set for each of the English regions, Scotland and Wales. They are regularly reviewed and increased so that two thirds of first-time purchasers qualify. We have no plans at present to alter the benefits available.

Property Services Agency

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for the Environment whether the Property Services Agency is involved in any work for United States forces in the north of Scotland.

Sir George Young: Yes; the Property Services Agency undertakes major and minor works services and maintenance for the US forces throughout the United Kingdom.

Under-fives (Projects)

Ms. Harman asked the Secretary of State for the Environment (1) which time-expired projects relating to provision for the under-fives submitted under the inner cities programme for refunding in 1985-86 have been refused or part approved; and in the case of part approvals, what are the figures for grants in 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(2) if he will list the under-fives projects submitted for funding under the traditional urban programme 1985-86;

(3) which local authorities which have received traditional urban programme funding for under-fives projects in the past will not receive it in 1985-86;

(4) how many traditional urban programme time expired projects for the under-fives have been submitted for refunding; how many of these will not be refunded; and if he will list them by authority.

Sir George Young: Detailed information about urban programme projects specifically for the under-fives is not collected, as many projects cater for a wide range of ages and activities. Figures for part approvals for such schemes in 1984-85 are therefore not available. For 1985-86, decisions have yet to be taken on applicatons under the traditional urban programme, except for holiday play-schemes, and on inner area programmes submitted by partnership and programme authorities.

Pay Schemes

Ms. Harman asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will identify the London local authorities which have received less under the traditional urban programme for play schemes in 1985-86 compared with 1984-85; and what is the size of the reduction in cash and percentage terms for each authority.

Sir George Young: Eleven London local authorities received reduced support for holiday play schemes under the traditional urban programme in 1985-86 compared with 1984-85. The size of the reduction in cash and percentage terms is as follows:

Local authority	*Reduction in cash £*	*Percentage reduction*
Camden	10,658	48
Ealing	5,450	25
Greenwich	12,706	48
Haringey	13,000	48
Kensington and Chelsea	4,400	25
Lewisham	13,000	52
Newham	6,063	28
Southwark	14,000	54
Waltham Forest	9,490	43
Westminster	11,215	51
ILEA	17,040	60

In addition, the following authorities which had received support in 1984-85 received no support in 1985-86:

Local authority	*Amount approved in 1984-85 £*
Barking and Dagenham	2,235
Croydon	7,500
Enfield	5,650
Hounslow	12,053
Merton	8,300
Redbridge	2,000

Ms. Harman asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has to cut support to holiday play schemes through the traditional urban programme in 1985-86, in authorities other than the London boroughs; and by how much to each authority.

Sir George Young: Total support for holiday play schemes under the traditional urban programme will be £400,000 in 1985-86. This is about half the 1984-85 figure and the proportional reduction for local authorities outside London taken together is about the same. In 1985-86, support has been concentrated in the most deprived area, so reductions vary between authorities. Lists are available in the Library giving full details both of 1985-86 approvals and of those for earlier years.

Conservation (Management Agreements)

Mr. Jackson asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what plans he has to review the financial guidelines for management agreements drawn up in accordance with section 50 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: I have appointed Lawrence Gould Consultants Ltd. to undertake a detailed review of the operations of the guidelines, which have been criticised by the Environment Committee for their complexity. The review, which will consider options for simplifying the guidelines, will pay particular attention to the Environment Committee's comments and recommendations. It is expected to take about four months.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Military Lands Act

Mr. Dubs asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests under the Military Lands Act byelaws there have been in each of the last five years.

Mr. Mellor: The information collected centrally, which may be incomplete, relates to persons proceeded against or cautioned by the police for offences under the Military Lands Acts 1892 to 1903 and bylaws made thereunder and is given in the table. Information on persons arrested and subsequently released without further such action could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. Corresponding information for 1984 is not yet available.

Pers[illegible]eded against at magistrates' courts or cautioned by the [illegible]ce for offences against the Military Lands Acts

E[illegible]d Wales *Number of persons*

Year	Proceeded against	Cautioned
1979	30	8
1980	10	6
1981	14	1
1982	12	—
1983	17	3

Prisons (Fire Drill)

Mr. Tom Cox asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the fire drill procedure that takes place in prisons in England and Wales; how often it takes place; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Mellor: The fire drill procedure for Prison Department establishments in England and Wales is set out in the Prison Department's "Fire Precautions Manual", a copy of which has been place in the Library of the House. Subject to any overriding security or control considerations, a full fire practice should be held at least once in six months. Where practicable, the exercises include the evacuation of selected buildings and calling the local fire brigade.

Prisons (Bedding)

Mr. Tom Cox asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the type of bedding supplied in prisons in England and Wales; and if it is fire resistant.

Mr. Mellor: Bedding supplied in Prison Department establishments includes cotton sheets, polyurethane mattresses and pillows, and either woollen or cotton blankets and rugs. All sheets are flame retardant. New style mattresses recently introduced into closed cellular accommodation are flame retardant; the old style mattresses (which are being replaced by the new mattresses during this year) are not themselves flame retardant but have a flame retardant cover. The pillows, woollen blankets and rugs are not flame retardant, but work is in hand to develop and introduce flame retardant versions.

Immigration

Mr. Tony Lloyd asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will give details of the percentage of fiancés and husbands refused entry clearance; and what percentage was wholly on grounds of primary purposes and what percentage partly on those grounds.

Mr. Waddington: Nearly one half of all applications for entry clearance to the United Kingdom from husbands and fiancés in the Indian subcontinent were refused in 1984. About one third of all applications were refused solely on primary purpose grounds, and about 1 in 25 were refused partly on these grounds. Corresponding information for countries outside the Indian subcontinent is not available.

Police (Efficiency and Effectiveness)

Mr. Marlow asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how his Department intends to increase police efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Giles Shaw: Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary will continue to encourage forces to manage resources efficiently and effectively and to ensure that examples of good practice are widely disseminated. Improved police efficiency and effectiveness is a major objective of many aspects of the Department's work, including crime prevention, police training, new technology and research.

Intex 85

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list the targets of nuclear attack in Britain during the Intex 85 exercise;

(2) what was the total number of deaths envisaged throughout the European North Atlantic Treaty Organisation countries during the Intex 85 exercise;

(3) what was the total explosive yield of the nuclear attack on European North Atlantic Treaty Organisation countries during the Intex 85 exercise;

(4) if he will state the total explosive yield of the simulated nuclear attack on Britain during the Intex 85 civil defence exercise.

Mr. Giles Shaw: Intex 85 is one in a series of annual international exercises prepared and co-ordinated by the United Kingdom warning and monitoring organisation for national civil warning and monitoring organisations in European NATO countries. The exercise scenario is designed to test all parts of the warning and monitoring system and is not an indication of any specific Government planning assumption.

On this occasion a total of 164 bombs with a range of theoretical explosive yields between 100 Kt and 2 Mt were deemed to have been detonated over the United Kingdom and a further 180 bombs in the range 5 Kt to 2 Mt were plotted over the continental NATO countries. The total explosive yield is not readily available. The locations of the nuclear bursts were distributed over the widest geographical area in order to ensure that all parts of the organisations and their monitoring procedures were fully practiced in pre-selected weather conditions. Casualty estimates were not made.

Suicides (Yorkshire)

Mr. W. Benyon asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will give details of all recorded suicide verdicts by coroner's courts in Yorkshire involving deaths of girls aged under 16 years between 20 December 1984 and 11 January 1985; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Mellor: There have been no suicide verdicts recorded by Yorkshire coroners between the dates specified involving the deaths of girls under 16 years of age.

Police (Disclosure of Information)

Ms. Harman asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to amend the arrangements regarding disclosures of information by the police to social services departments about previous convictions of any employee or potential employees in residential care in the *(a)* private sector, *(b)* voluntary sector, *(c)* local authority sector of homes for (i) the elderly, (ii) the mentally handicapped, (iii) the physically handicapped and (iv) the chronically ill; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Mellor: My right hon. and learned Friend has announced his intention to review the arrangements under which information about the criminal background of those who seek to work in positions of responsibility for children is made available to those who need to know it. The terms of reference for this review, which he will announce very shortly, will not extend to the groups mentioned in the hon. Member's question. But he is willing to consider evidence of the need for a change of practice in respect of these groups, and has not ruled out the possible need to extend the review at a later stage.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

High Density Polythene Sheeting

Mr. Proctor asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the restriction on imports of high density polythene sheeting from the United States of America into the European Economic Community.

Mr. Channon: High density polyethylene film is one of those products of which imports from the USA have been restricted by the Community since March 1984 in retaliation against American import restrictions on certain special steels. This action was taken to impress on the Americans the need to uphold their international obligations to maintain open and fair trade.

Postal Communications (Soviet Union)

Rev Martin Smyth asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many P58 claim forms were received by the Post Office during 1984 in respect of items sent by post from the United Kingdom to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and what were the corresponding figures for each of the previous five years;

(2) how many registered postal letters and packets sent from the United Kingdom to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1984 were reported as missing by the Post Office; and what were the corresponding figures for the previous five years;

(3) how many registered postal communicaions were despatched through the Post Office in 1984 and were sent to addresses in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, but were subsequently returned to senders in the United Kingdom under article 122 of the universal postal union convention; and what were the corresponding figures for the previous five years;

(4) on how many occasions in 1984 the Post Office reported that registered letters and packets sent from the United Kingdom to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had been confiscated by the Soviet postal authorities; and what were the corresponding figures for the previous five years.

Mr. Pattie: The information requested is a matter for the Post Office, which has told me, however, that such information is not available.

Basildon (Ministerial Visit)

Mr. Amess asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the visit to Basildon on 13 March by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for small businesses, the hon. Member for Rossendale and Darwen (Mr. Trippier).

Mr. Trippier: I was most grateful to my hon. Friend for affording me the opportunity to visit his constituency on 13 March. During the course of the day I visited a number of small firms and was most impressed with the enterprise and initiative which I saw in a number of sectors, ranging from advanced robotics to shopfitting. I believe that these small entrepreneurs will play a vital role in supporting Basildon's future economic prosperity and will continue to make a major contribution to the creation of new jobs.

I was also particularly pleased to meet some of the directors of Basildon Enterprise Agency and to learn that the agency is performing well in encouraging the establishment and growth of small firms in the area. I know that my hon. Friend is a great supporter of the agency.

Information Technology Centres

Mr. Coombs asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the information technology education centres in the United Kingdom; and if he will give for each one *(a)* the number of staff, full-time equivalents, *(b)* the number of available places in the current year, *(c)* the number of unfilled places in the current year and *(d)* the cost in the current year.

Mr. Peter Morrison: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently 163 information technology centres (ITeCs) in operation and these are as follows. The Manpower Services Commission does not keep centrally detailed information about individual ITeCs and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, national figures for the ITeC programme are available and at the end of February there were 1,111 adult staff, 5,994 available places and 5,248 trainees in training, comprising young people on both 1983-84 and 1984-85 schemes. The cost of the programme to the commission in the current financial year is estimated to be about 24 million.

London Region (15)
    Brent
    Brixton
    Camden
    Covent Garden
    Croydon
    Docklands
    Greenwich
    Hackney
    Haringey
    Hounslow
    Islington
    Lewisham
    Nottingdale
    Southall
    Southwark (Microtech)

Midlands (27)
    Aston (Birmingham)
    Bedworth
    Boston and South Holland
    Burton-on-Trent
    Cannock
    Corby
    Coventry
    Derby
    Dudley
    East Lindsay
    Grantham
    Hanley (Stoke)
    Leicester
    Lincoln
    Mansfield
    Newcastle under Lyme
    Northampton
    North Leicestershire
    Nottingham
    Rugby
    Sandwell
    Solihull
    Stafford
    Telford
    Walsall
    Wolverhampton
    Worcester

Northern (10)
    Aycliffe
    Cleveland
    Cramlington
    Durham
    Gateshead
    Hebburn
    Newcastle
    North Tyneside
    Peterlee
    Sunderland

North West (29)
    Barrow
    Blackburn
    Blackpool (Flyde Coast)
    Bolton
    Burnley
    Bury
    Carlisle
    Charles Wootton
    Ellesmere Port
    Halton
    Knowsley
    Lancaster
    Liverpool (Merseyside Training)
    Manchester (6502)
    Manchester (ORT)
    Oldham
    Preston
    Rochdale
    Salford
    Sefton
    South Liverpool
    Southport
    St. Helens
    Tameside
    Warrington
    West Cumbria
    West Lancashire (Skelmersdale)
    Wigan
    Wirral (Marconi)

Scotland (21)
    Aberdeen
    Bellshill
    Borders
    Bridgeton
    Clydebank
    Cranhill
    Cumbernauld
    Dumfries
    Dundee
    East Kilbride
    Edinburgh City
    Falkirk
    Glenrothes
    Govan
    Inverclyde
    Inverness (Highland)
    Irvine
    Levenmouth (East Fife)
    Stirling
    West Fife
    West Lothian

South East (25)
    Ashford
    Basildon
    Bracknell
    Brighton
    Cambridge
    Crawley
    Gravesham
    Guildford
    Harlow
    Hastings
    Ipswich
    Isle of Wight
    Maidstone
    Medway
    Milton Keynes
    Norwich
    Peterborough
    Portsmouth
    Reading
    Rochford (South East Essex)
    Slough

- Southampton
- South East Surrey
- Staines (Spelthorne)
- Stevenage

South West (12)
- Bath
- Bristol (St. Anne's)
- Bristol (New Work)
- Christchurch
- Cornwall
- Dartington
- Exeter
- Gloucester
- North Bristol
- Plymouth
- Swindon
- Taunton

Wales (12)
- Caernarfon
- Cardiff
- Clwyd (Kelsterton)
- East Dyfed (Llanelli)
- Ebbw Vale
- Neath
- Newport
- Swansea
- Treforest (Pontypridd)
- Vale of Clwyd
- West Dyfed
- Wrexham

Yorks and Humberside (12)
- Barnsley
- Bradford
- Grimsby
- Halifax
- Harehills (Leeds)
- Hull
- Kirklees
- Scunthorpe
- Sheffield
- Shipley
- South Leeds
- York

North-West Tourist Board (Exhibition)

Mr. Burt asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will arrange for an exhibition relating to the North-West tourist board to be displayed in the Upper Waiting Hall.

Mr. Butcher: Yes. Arrangements have been made for such an exhibition in the Upper Waiting Hall to take place from Monday 25 March to Friday 29 March 1985.

EMPLOYMENT

Visual Display Units

Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for Employment whether he will introduce regulations to require the provision of suitable lighting for workers who use visual display units.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: There is no evidence to suggest that specific regulations covering the provision of suitable lighting for workers who use visual display units are needed. The Factories Act 1961 and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 both require the provision and maintenance of sufficient and suitable lighting in workrooms. In addition, the general provisions of section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 require employers to provide and maintain suitable lighting.

Youthaid

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Employment (1) if he plans to hold consultations with representatives of Youthaid about the relationship between the level of wages earned by youngsters and the level of awards by wages councils;

(2) if he plans to hold consultations with Youthaid about the possibility of referring to alternative programmes those youth training scheme trainees whose traineeships are interrupted because their sponsoring firms go into receivership.

Mr. Peter Morrison: No.

Maternity Pay Fund

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Secretary of State for Employment what was the outturn figure for payments under the maternity pay fund in 1983-84.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: During the year ended 31 March my Department paid employers rebates amounting to £57·5 million out of the maternity pay fund. This covered payments made to 131,401 employees.

Mr. Craigen asked the Secretary of State for Employment what research his Department is currently supporting into the effects on health of those operating visual display units; and if he has considered asking the Health and Safety Commission to review matters in order to establish the facts.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: I shall reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Service Sector Employees

Mr. Dewar asked the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list the number of people employed in the service sector in England in each of the last 10 years, giving the change in each year as a percentage of the total employed in that sector.

Mr. Alan Clark: The following table gives the estimated number of employees in employment in England in the service sector — divisions 6 to 9 of the 1980 standard industrial classification—at June in each of the last 10 years. It also gives the percentage change between each figure and the figure in the preceding year.

Service Industries—England

June each year	*Employees in employment (thousands)*	*Percentage change from previous year*
1975	10,838	+2·4
1976	10,883	+0·4
1977	10,956	+0·7
1978	11,131	+1·6
1979	11,443	+2·8
1980	11,555	+1·0
1981	11,338	−1·9
1982	11,296	−0·4
1983	11,310	+0·1
1984	11,541	+2·0

MSC (Official Journeys)

Mr. Kirkwood asked the Secretary of State for Employment how many individual journeys have been made at public expense by Manpower Services

Commission officials above the rank of principal for each of the years 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85; and what has been the total cost of these journeys to the taxpayer.

Mr. Peter Morrison: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

MSC (Computer Capacity)

Mr. Kirkwood asked the Secretary of State for Employment what is the computer capacity available at Manpower Services Commission regional and area offices in the large companies unit; and how many trainee records can be maintained on computer at each of these offices.

Mr. Peter Morrison: The large companies unit of the MSC's training division does not have a computer to maintain records of trainees. Information about schemes administered by the large companies unit is included amongst the data held by computer systems operating within the network of regional and area offices in the training division.

One system deals with payment of allowances to TOPS and YTS trainees. The second processes data about YTS and provides information on the various local and national schemes and numbers of participants, as well as producing necessary management statistics. The latter system holds, on average, records of 28,000 participants at each area office.

MSC (New Technology)

Mr. Kirkwood asked the Secretary of State for Employment what investment has been made by the Manpower Services Commission in new technology to improve the administrative efficiency of the commission for each of the years 1981-82 to 1984-85, broken down by Selkirk house, Moorfoot, Sheffield, Manpower Services Commission regional offices, Manpower Services Commission area offices, the Manpower Services Commission large companies unit and each operating division of the commission; and if he will make a statement on the future investment plans for the commission in new technology.

Mr. Peter Morrison: Capital investment in new technology in the MSC for the financial years 1981-82 to 1984-85 is as follows.

For each of the financial years concerned 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84 and finally 1984-85 the figures are as follows:

	£
Employment Division	
1981-82	1,337,839
1982-83	1,533,112
1983-84	2,106,500
1984-85	1,794,000
Training Division	
1981-82	432,273
1982-83	3,999,949
1983-84	770,579
1984-85	528,000
Skillcentre Training Agency	
1981-82	—
1982-83	—
1983-84	—
1984-85	179,000
PER	
1981-82	4,699
1982-83	2,726
1983-84	29,202
1984-85	28,000
Commission and Essential Services	
1981-82	317,728
1982-83	274,691
1983-84	2,752,777
1984-85	1,703,000
Total	
1981-82	2,092,539
1982-83	5,810,478
1983-84	5,659,058
1984-85	4,232,000

The figures include expenditure on computers, telecommunications equipment and office machinery for 1981-82 to 1983-84 as published. The figures for 1984-85 are forecast expenditure in respect of the new skillcentre training agency is included within the overall training division totals for 1981-82 to 1983-84. It has not proved possible to break the expenditure down below operating divisions but an indication of equipment provided is as follows:

Selkirk House: Word processors and micro-computers.

Moorfoot (Sheffield): Word processors, various micro-computers, on-line national vacancy system (NATVACS), many computer systems relating to payment of allowances and operation of programmes (TOPS mini and Spectrum).

MSC Regional Offices: Many computer systems relating to payment of allowances, operation of programmes, and circulation of vacancy information; various micro-computers.

MSC Area Offices: Many computer systems relating to payment of allowances and operation of programmes; various micro-computers.

MSC Large Companies Unit: Not yet operating a computer system but research is currently being conducted into implementing a suitable system in late 1985-86.

In addition, an electronic mail system links Selkirk house, Moorfoot and all regional and area offices. Future investment plans for the commission in new technology are currently being considered within the financial planning cycle.

WALES

Road Schemes

Mr. Barry Jones asked the Secretary of State for Wales what is the individual and total estimated cost of the following road schemes: A55 Bodelwyddan bypass, A55 Dwygyfylchi-Penmaenbach, A55 Llanfairfechan bypass, A55 Penmaenmawr bypass, A55 Glan Conwy-Conwy Morfa, A40 Pengawse Hill diversion, A40 Whitland bypass, A40 Treffgarne Rocks improvement, A48 Cross Hands Llanddarog bypass, A48 Chepstow inner relief road and bridge, A483 Ruabon bypass and Wynnstany link, A483 Newbridge bypass and Whitehurst link, A483 Gresford-Pulford bypass and A483 Chirk bypass; and when construction is due to begin in each case.

Mr Wyn Roberts: The information is given in the following table:

	Estimated Gross Cost £ million (November 1984 prices) (Land and works)	*Current Provisional Start Date**
A55 Bodelwyddan bypass	6·58	May 1985
A55 Dwygyfylchi-Penmaenbach Improvement	26·14	under review
A55 Llanfairfechan bypass	15·20	1986-87
A55 Penmaenmawr bypass	35·06	1986-87
A55 Glan Conwy-Conwy Morfa (Conwy Crossing)	139·00	1986-87
A40 Pengawse Hill Diversion	3·53	1985-86
A40 Whitland bypass	2·15	1987-88
A40 Treffgarne Rocks Improvement	1·50	1987-88
A48 Cross Hands-Llanddarog bypass	22·32	May 1985
A48 Chepstow Inner Relief Road (Welsh element)	3·40	October 1985
A483 Ruabon bypass and Wynnstay Link	17·44	October 1985
A483 Newbridge bypass and Whitehurst Link	14·41	1986-87
A483 Gresford-Pulford bypass	17·57	1986-87
A483 Chirk bypass	9·23	1987-88
Total	313·53	

* Subject to the satisfactory completion of statutory procedures and engineering design and the availability of resources.

Local Authorities (Finance)

Mr. Barry Jones asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the rules imposed on Welsh local authorities in respect of their new and accumulated capital receipts, in each year from 1981-82 to 1985-86, and the most recent arrangements.

Mr. Nicholas Edwards: The degree of access to new and accumulated capital receipts in the local authority sector has been adjusted over the period since 1981-82 principally in order to secure a better match between the level of actual capital spending and the provision for such spending in the Government's plans. The precise rules applicable in each period are set out in the Local Government (Prescribed Expenditure) Regulations and Amendment Regulations laid and approved by the House each year.

Mr. Barry Jones asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he will publish the budgeted expenditure increase, current expenditure, in each Welsh local authority in each year from 1981-82 to 1984-85, showing the total increase between 1981-82 and 1984-85.

Mr. Nicholas Edwards: The following table gives details of budgeted current expenditure of Welsh local authorities in each year 1981-82 to 1984-85. Comparisons between years are affected by changes in the national insurance surcharge contribution which was 3·5 per cent. in 1981-82 and 1982-83, 2·5 per cent. in 1983-84 and 1 per cent. in 1984-85. The budgeted figures for the individual years have not been adjusted to allow for these changes but the final column compares the adjusted 1981-82 figures with those for 1984-85.

Budgeted Expenditure Increase, Current Expenditure by Local Authority 1981-82 to 1984-85

(£000)

Authority	*1981-82*	*Difference 1982-82 to 1982-83*	*1982-83*	*Difference 1982-83 to 1983-84*	*1983-84*	*Difference 1983-84 to 1984-85*	*1984-85*	**Total Increase 1981-82 to 1984-85*
Alyn and Deeside	3,513	−73	3,440	436	3,876	−94	3,782	328
Colwyn	3,076	144	3,220	37	3,257	−90	3,167	142
Delyn	3,744	162	3,906	724	4,630	111	4,741	1,060
Glyndwr	2,215	196	2,411	56	2,467	121	2,588	410
Rhuddlan	3,972	56	4,028	52	4,080	−486	3,594	−311
Wrexham Maelor	6,298	173	6,471	217	6,688	457	7,145	952
Carmarthen	2,631	77	2,708	50	2,758	277	3,035	448
Ceredigion	2,654	124	2,778	431	3,209	234	3,443	833
Dinefwr	1,685	−9	1,676	−9	1,667	174	1,841	184
Llanelli	4,522	187	4,709	91	4,800	283	5,083	637
Preseli	3,096	241	3,337	157	3,494	147	3,641	597
South Pembroke	1,951	59	2,010	187	2,197	54	2,251	333
Blaenau Gwent	4,770	477	5,247	159	5,406	683	6,089	1,399
Islwyn	3,457	287	3,744	226	3,970	232	4,202	803
Monmouth	3,606	107	3,713	285	3,998	67	4,065	519
Newport	7,835	748	8,583	144	8,727	−38	8,689	985
Torfaen	6,423	−85	6,338	−130	6,208	−109	6,099	−216
Aberconwy	3,482	245	3,727	19	3,746	126	3,872	448
Arfon	2,847	550	3,397	373	3,770	141	3,911	1,112
Dwyfor	1,475	214	1,689	125	1,814	24	1,838	388
Merionnydd	1,918	226	2,144	192	2,336	24	2,360	474
Ynys Mon	3,369	736	4,105	−13	4,092	391	4,483	1,170
Cynon Valley	4,077	263	4,340	342	4,682	267	4,949	940
Merthyr Tydfil	5,021	361	5,382	234	5,616	−439	5,177	240
Ogwr	6,544	834	7,378	230	7,608	255	7,863	1,428
Rhondda	6,066	230	6,296	448	6,744	156	6,900	935
Rhymney Valley	5,886	1,658	7,544	46	7,590	193	7,783	1,995
Taff Ely	5,408	503	5,911	−62	5,849	396	6,245	927
Brecknock	1,962	−180	1,782	353	2,135	109	2,244	315
Montgomery	2,142	83	2,225	251	2,476	150	2,626	520
Radnor	949	74	1,023	189	1,212	11	1,223	290

Authority	*1981-82*	*Difference 1982-82 to 1982-83*	*1982-83*	*Difference 1982-83 to 1983-84*	*1983-84*	*Difference 1983-84 to 1984-85*	*1984-85*	**Total Increase 1981-82 to 1984-85*
Cardiff	15,137	1,887	17,024	935	17,959	1,562	19,521	4,637
Vale of Glamorgan	5,433	79	5,512	0	5,512	184	5,696	354
Afan	4,132	250	4,382	414	4,796	42	4,838	775
Lliw Valley	3,160	−9	3,151	328	3,479	−356	3,123	16
Neath	3,016	89	3,105	181	3,286	339	3,625	659
Swansea	11,555	1,493	13,048	−65	12,983	250	13,233	1,871
Clwyd	128,800	10,700	139,500	5,940	145,440	8,662	154,102	27,453
Dyfed	112,422	5,529	117,951	4,883	122,834	4,540	127,374	16,829
Gwent	142,779	12,819	155,598	6,765	162,363	4,558	166,921	26,526
Gwynedd	80,469	3,588	84,057	4,510	88,567	2,945	91,512	12,387
Mid Glamorgan	180,834	16,774	197,608	8,418	206,026	9,498	215,524	37,710
Powys	44,855	2,644	47,499	1,132	48,631	1,224	49,855	5,749
South Glamorgan	120.223	12,470	132,693	5,403	138,096	4,062	142,158	23,943
West Glamorgan	126,621	8,784	135,405	4,344	139,749	4,404	144,153	19,647
Total Districts	159,027	12,457	171,484	7,633	179,117	5,548	184,965	28,594
Total Counties	937,003	73,308	1,010,311	41,395	1,051,706	39,893	1,091,599	170,244
Total Wales	1,096,030	85,765	1,181,795	49,028	1,230,823	45,741	1,276,564	198,838

* 1981-82 figures have been adjusted to 1984-85 NIS levels.

Mr. Barry Jones asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he will publish *(a)* gross expenditure, *(b)* net capital expenditure by each Welsh local authority on housing and *(c)* current expenditure on repairs and maintenance to existing housing stock in Wales in each year from 1981-82 to 1984-85, estimate.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Table A.
Gross Capital Expenditure by the Welsh District Authorities on Housing 1981-82 to 1984-85—£000

District	*Outturn*			*Districts Forecast*
	1981-82	*1982-83*	**1983-84*	*1984-85*
Alyn and Deeside	2,025	3,683	3,492	4,718
Colwyn	1,379	1,764	2,360	1,673
Delyn	1,242	1,284	2,123	1,423
Glyndwr	1,571	1,790	2,564	2,497
Rhuddlan	750	1,044	1,121	956
Wrexham Maelor	2,604	3,580	4,544	4,038
Carmarthen	2,666	3,879	8,866	4,749
Ceredigion	2,200	3,057	6,941	4,488
Dinefwr	801	1,419	2,576	1,628
Llanelli	1,938	2,518	4,537	3,571
Preseli	2,248	2,944	4,084	4,328
South Pembroke	1,197	1,868	3,642	3,585
Blaenau Gwent	5,012	9,800	10,785	8,746
Islwyn	2,339	4,753	7,466	7,616
Monmouth	1,966	3,298	5,990	4,472
Newport	6,996	9,336	11,654	9,624
Torfaen	3,442	6,310	7,342	6,022
Aberconwy	793	1,332	2,334	2,355
Arfon	2,541	2,609	4,214	3,446
Dwyfor	589	1,047	2,957	1,573
Meirionnydd	804	1,239	3,669	3,523
Ynys Mon	1,497	2,569	6,679	2,138
Cynon Valley	2,308	2,738	4,513	2,986
Merthr Tydfil	2,505	2,871	4,540	3,474
Ogwr	4,572	5,387	8,614	9,034
Rhondda	5,014	6,765	12,972	10,782
Rhymney Valley	3,439	5,281	7,381	6,537
Taff Ely	4,618	6,221	9,628	5,909
Brecknock	966	984	2,461	1,964
Montgomery	670	1,279	926	2,291
Radnor	544	1,463	1,793	1,137
Cardiff	11,132	13,368	23,038	18,724
Vale of Glamorgan	1,705	4,023	4,873	4,132
Afan	940	1,987	2,272	2,273
Lliw Valley	2,660	3,697	4,196	2,968
Neath	1,692	3,693	4,701	3,402
Swansea	6,498	9,601	11,998	11,385
Total	95,863	140,481	213,846	174,167

* Provisional.

TABLE B
Net capital expenditure by the Welsh District Authorities on housing 1981-82 to 1984-85

District	*Outturn*			*Districts forecast*
	1981-82 £000	*1982-83 £000*	**1983-84 £000*	*1984-85 £000*
Alyn and Deeside	712	2,421	2,440	3,618
Colwyn	594	873	1,689	1,223
Delyn	141	416	758	719
Glyndwr	789	777	1,868	1,970
Rhuddlan	282	591	602	646
Wrexham Maelor	420	1,925	3,638	3,168
Carmarthen	833	2,382	7,787	3,967
Ceredigion	560	1,082	5,679	3,575
Dinefwr	30	752	2,199	1,295
Llanelli	299	159	1,774	1,971
Preseli	1,256	355	1,330	2,695
South Pembroke	392	356	1,598	2,499
Blaenau Gwent	3,304	7,380	9,244	7,302
Islwyn	161	4,260	4,089	5,504
Monmouth	651	1,217	2,487	1,392
Newport	3,378	4,679	6,265	5,024
Torfaen	153	1,809	3,018	2,671
Aberconwy	346	474	1,401	1,805
Arfon	1,062	1,283	2,883	2,401
Dwyfor	54	294	2,514	1,288
Meirionnydd	109	58	2,861	3,223
Ynys Môn	133	1,256	5,945	1,493
Cynon Valley	1,230	712	3,618	2,106
Merthyr Tydfil	505	526	3,057	2,131
Ogwr	2,139	15	1,743	5,384
Rhondda	2,980	5,294	11,589	9,370
Rhymney Valley	1,027	2,567	4,156	4,213
Taff Ely	2,751	4,138	7,116	3,759
Brecknock	921	255	1,236	1,126
Montgomery	1,261	113	52	1,441
Radnor	169	759	1,045	737
Cardiff	5,260	2,935	15,517	11,124

District	Outturn 1981-82 £000	1982-83 £000	*1983-84 £000	Districts forecast 1984-85 £000
Vale of Glamorgan	626	45	1,179	332
Afan	209	1,987	2,032	77
Lliw Valley	1,777	1,919	3,071	2,367
Neath	299	2,096	3,708	2,517
Swansea	4,421	6,611	9,688	8,666
TOTAL	30,354	54,567	137,286	114,645

* Provisional.

Table C

Repairs and maintenance to local authority council dwellings 1981-82 to 1984-85

(£000)

Authority	*1981-82 Outturn*	*1982-83 Outturn*	*1983-84 Outturn*	*1984-85 Estimates*
Alyn and Deeside	890	1,033	1,025	1,167
Colwyn	443	540	654	645
Delyn	1,124	1,156	1,287	1,256
Glyndwr	654	681	762	751
Rhuddlan	433	543	630	625
Wrexham Maelor	2,393	2,572	2,938	3,208
Carmarthen	907	983	1,112	1,209
Ceredigion	872	832	939	1,072
Dinefwr	561	586	652	779
Llanelli	1,515	1,895	2,334	2,545
Preseli	1,754	1,845	1,948	1,948
South Pembroke	881	948	646	873
Blaenau Gwent	2,698	3,252	4,890	3,512
Islwyn	1,752	1,956	2,096	1,960
Monmouth	1,763	1,877	1,974	2,120
Newport	2,900	3,138	3,787	3,352
Torfaen	2,152	2,543	2,107	2,084
Aberconwy	888	990	1,000	1,050
Arfon	1,332	1,505	1,894	1,872
Dwyfor	283	364	371	376
Meirionnydd	481	468	542	495
Ynys Mon	1,417	1,710	2,005	1,497
Cynon Valley	1,356	1,575	1,513	1,769
Merthyr Tydful	1,502	1,725	1,884	2,081
Ogwr	2,290	2,867	2,985	3,225
Rhondda	347	1,670	1,851	1,900
Rhymney Valley	3,259	3,750	3,233	3,690
Taff Ely	2,614	2,874	3,275	2,916
Brecknock	561	608	599	648
Montgomery	705	749	815	1,176
Radnor	202	198	229	259
Cardiff	5,369	7,952	7,168	7,250
Vale of Glam	1,669	2,130	2,066	2,230
Afan	1,680	2,114	3,377	3,108
Lliw Valley	1,163	1,221	1,415	1,419
Neath	716	1,723	1,764	1,989
Swansea	4,334	4,891	5,208	5,900
Total Wales	55,857	67,467	72,979	73,956

Mr. Barry Jones asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he will publish the total of *(a)* rate fund balances, *(b)* special funds and *(c)* capital funds available to Welsh local authorities at the end of each financial year from 1974-75 to 1983-84.

Mr. Nicholas Edwards: The table gives details of end year balances of Welsh local authorities for the rate fund, special funds and capital funds for the years 1974-75 to 1983-84.

	Rate Fund £ million	*Special Funds* £ million*	*Capital Funds £ million*
1974-75	20·4	7·3	2·5
1975-76	49·0	7·4	3·4
1976-77	76·9	10·6	4·7
1977-78	96·3	14·8	7·5
1978-79	82·5	21·2	6·9
1979-80	73·2	24·5	11·8
1980-81	71·9	19·7	9·2
1981-82	96·1	24·0	16·9
1982-83	119·7	50·8	22·2
1983-84†	105·5	67·3	21·4

* Statutory special funds excluding superannuation funds.
† Provisional.

EEC Anti-poverty Programme

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Wales how much money Wales has received from the earlier EEC anti-poverty programme; and if he will list the projects which benefited.

Mr. Nicholas Edwards: One project in Wales, the south Wales anti-poverty action centre, was funded under the programme. A total of £291,382 was awarded over the period 1975-76 to 1980-81, of which 50 per cent. was reimbursed by the EC.

Coal Industry

Mr. Barry Jones asked the Secretary of State for Wales what information he has as to how many Welsh employees of the National Coal Board have been dismissed in the last four weeks.

Mr. Nicholas Edwards: This is a matter for the National Coal Board.

NHS (Private Practice)

Mr. Gwilym Jones asked the Secretary of State for Wales if the statutory audit review of the management of private practice in the National Health Service in Wales has been completed; and what action he proposes to take as a consequence.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: At my Department's request the NHS auditor for Wales has carried out in all nine district health authorities in Wales statutory audit reviews covering private practice, category II charges and travel and subsistence. His reports of these reviews have now been made to the Department and copies of each report sent by the Department to the chairman of the district health authority concerned for consideration by the authority and comment within a two-month period.

Responses from authorities indicating the action they are taking are being submitted to the Department which, together with the NHS auditor for Wales, is considering them. The Department and the statutory auditor will continue to monitor the action being taken by authorities on the reports until we are satisfied that the weaknesses identified have been remedied. The auditor will be checking on the actions taken during his next audit of each authority. In the light of the problems identified in these reports, in conjunction with my right hon. and learned Friend the Minister for Health and after consultation with the medical profession, we will be issuing revised guidance to authorities on the management of private practice in the NHS.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Expenditure

Sir Anthony Grant asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what was, in real terms, the amount of public money spent on education in each of the last 10 years *(a)* in total and *(b)* divided by county in England.

Sir Keith Joseph: Total spending by central and local government in each of the last 10 years on those areas of education which are my responsibility was as follows:

**£ million*

	Real terms
1974-75	13,676
1975-76	13,819
1976-77	13,698
1977-78	12,658
1978-79	12,662
1979-80	12,501
1980-81	12,868
1981-82	12,684
1982-83	12,811
1983-84	12,881

* 1983-84 = 100.

Expenditure divided by county in England could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ILEA (Pupil Origins)

Mr. Marlow asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what proportion of children in the Inner London Education Authority primary schools are of *(a)* United Kingdom and *(b)* non-United Kingdom ethnic origin.

Mr. Dunn: This information is not collected centrally.

Science Teaching

Mr. Hirst asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science when he expects to publish a policy statement on science teaching in schools.

Sir Keith Joseph: "Science 5-16: A statement of policy" will be issued by the Department and by the Welsh Office tomorrow. The statement identifies principles for school science education and points to the need for action within the resources available by schools, local education authorities, curriculum developers, teacher training institutions, examining bodies and the Secondary Examinations Council. I hope that the statement of policy will be welcomed by all who are concerned to improve science education in our schools.

PRIME MINISTER

Teachers (Pay)

Q11. **Mr. Patrick Thompson** asked the Prime Minister if she will make a statement on the teachers' pay dispute.

The Prime Minister: The teachers' panel of the Burnham primary and secondary committee has rejected a 4 per cent. pay offer, refused arbitration and withdrawn from discussions on the reform of teachers' pay structure, conditions of service and appraisal. The two largest teacher unions are prosecuting an unrealistic claim for £1,200 a year for all teachers by means of industrial action. I greatly regret the resulting damage to children's education and deplore the readiness of these unions to subordinate the interests of the pupils in their charge to the pay aspirations of their members.

Fraserburgh

Q25. **Mr. McQuarrie** asked the Prime Minister if she will make an official visit to Fraserburgh.

The Prime Minister: I have at present no plans to do so.

Malaysia and the Far East (Visit)

Q68. **Mr. Teddy Taylor** asked the Prime Minister if she will now provide details of her forthcoming visit to Malaysia and the far east.

The Prime Minister: As has already been announced, I shall be visiting Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India during the Easter recess from 4 to 13 April.

Confectionery Industry

Q88. **Mr. Gregory** asked the Prime Minister if she will make a statement about Government support for the United Kingdom confectionery industry.

The Prime Minister: I recognise the importance of the confectionery industry to the economy and its valuable contribution from rising exports. The Government's policies are designed to provide the economic conditions to help industry as a whole become more competitive and increase its sales.

Confectionery manufacturers are eligible to apply for assistance under the full range of Government schemes designed to aid industry. Help for exporters is available from the British Overseas Trade Board and from Food from Britain, whose current export marketing plan includes sugar and chocolate confectionery as priority products.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Alton asked the Prime Minister what is the average number of civil servants available to deal with the day-to-day work of each of her Ministers.

The Prime Minister: The average number of civil servants in private offices who are available to deal with the day-to-day work of each of Her Majesty's Ministers, Law Officers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State is 10.5. I and the staff of my office are included in the calculation of this average.

Crime and Vandalism

Mr. Patrick Thompson asked the Prime Minister if she will make a statement about the present level of crime and vandalism in the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister: Statistics of notifiable offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in 1984 were published by the Home Office on 12 March. They show increases over 1983 of 8 per cent. overall and of 12 per cent. in offences of criminal damage. These figures are disappointing: The Government will continue to give full support to the police and other agencies engaged in combating crime, but these efforts also require full backing from the public.

Criminal statistics for 1984 for Scotland are not yet available, but those for Northern Ireland show an increase over 1983 of 4 per cent. overall, with a decrease of 3 per cent. in offences of criminal damage.

Ethiopia (Services Relief Force)

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked the Prime Minister if she will allow the Royal Air Force and Army famine relief force to stay and work in Ethiopia after their current tour of duty ends at the end of March.

The Prime Minister: The Government will continue the RAF's operation after the end of March, if the Ethiopian authorities agree. I cannot say how long we shall stay, but we have told the Ethiopians that we would be prepared, in any case, to give one month's notice of any intention to withdraw. We need to assess changing estimates of the need for this operation and its usefulness, and the help other donors might give.

Engagements

Mr. Foulkes asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for 21 March.

Mr. Greenway asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for 21 March.

Mr. Campbell-Savours asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Thursday 21 March.

Mr. Yeo asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for 21 March.

Mr. Eggar asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Thursday 21 March.

Mr. John Mark Taylor asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Thursday 21 March.

Mr. Pike asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Thursday 21 March.

Mr. Sean Hughes asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Thursday 21 March.

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Prime Minister if she will list her official engagements for Thursday 21 March.

The Prime Minister: This morning I presided at a meeting of the Cabinet and had meetings with ministerial colleagues and others. In addition to my duties in this House I shall be having further meetings later today.

Inflation

Mr. White asked the Prime Minister if she will publish in the *Official Report* a table giving the rate of inflation for each year since 1970.

The Prime Minister: The annual increase in the retail prices index for each year since 1970 is given in the following table:

Year	*Increase in retail prices index (per cent.)*
1970	6·4
1971	9·4
1972	7·1
1973	9·2
1974	16·1
1975	24·2
1976	16·6
1977	15·8
1978	8·3
1979	13·4
1980	18·0
1981	11·9
1982	8·6
1983	4·6
1984	5·0

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Sir Philip Holland asked the Prime Minister if she will list in the *Official Report* the executive non-departmental public bodies that have been the subject of overall reviews in accordance with the requirement set out in section 7 of the "Non-departmental Public Bodies: A Guide for Departments" since January 1982; and if she will make a statement on the progress to date.

The Prime Minister: The executive bodies reviewed since 1982 are as follows.

Since the review arrangements described in the present guidance to Departments were introduced in 1979 we have substantially reduced the number of all kinds of non-departmental bodies, with corresponding savings in public expenditure. We shall continue to keep the justification for such bodies under review. But we are now putting even greater emphasis on getting better value for money from such bodies. I announced on 19 November last year a new programme of reviews aimed at progressively improving the management and performance of non-departmental bodies. Revised guidance, incorporating these new arrangements, will be published later this year.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODIES: EXECUTIVE BODIES REVIEWED IN 1982 AND 1983

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Agricultural Training Board
- Apple and Pear Development Council
- Eggs Authority
- National Seed Development Organisation Ltd.

Office of Arts and Libraries
- British Museum
- British Film Institute
- Crafts Council
- Imperial War Museum
- Museum of London
- National Film School
- National Maritime Museum
- Sir John Soane's Museum

Department of Education and Science
- Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education
- Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges
- Council for National Academic Awards
- Genetic Manipulation Advisory Group
- National Youth Bureau
- Schools Council
- Science and Engineering Research Council
- Social Science Research Council

Department of Employment
Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service
Manpower Services Commission

Departments of the Environment and Transport
British Board of Agrément
Commission for the New Towns
Commons Commissioners
Housing Corporation

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (including ODA)
Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board
Crown Agents
GB—China Centre
GB—East European Centre
GB—USSR Association
Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission

Department of Health and Social Security
Council for Postgraduate Medical Education (England and Wales)
Health Education Council
National Biological Standards Board
Public Health Laboratory Services Board (England and Wales)

Home Office
Chief Constables' Committees for District Police Training Centres
Commission for Racial Equality
Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Equal Opportunities Commission
Police Promotion Examinations Board

Northern Ireland Departments
Fisheries Conservancy Board
Health and Safety Agency
Industrial Training Boards
Northern Ireland Arts Council
Northern Ireland Council for Educational Development
Northern Ireland Tourist Board
Northern Ireland Training Executive
Pig Production Development Committee
Transport Users' Committee

Scottish Office
Animal Diseases Research Association
Central Institutions—Boards of Governors
Crofters Commission
East Kilbride Development Corporation
Edinburgh New Town Conservation Committee
Glenrothes New Town Development Corporation
Highlands and Islands Development Board
Macaulay Institute for Soil Research
Newbattle Abbey College—Board of Governors
River Purification Boards
Rowett Research Institute
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
Scottish Business Education Council
Scottish Council for Educational Technology
Scottish Council for Research in Education
Scottish Crop Research Institute
Scottish Institute of Agricultural Engineering
Scottish National Camps Association
Scottish Sports Council
Scottish Technical Education Council

Department of Trade and Industry
British Hallmarking Council
Cotton Industry War Memorial Trust
English Industrial Estates Corporation
Hearing Aid Council

Her Majesty's Treasury
Chequers Trust
National Economic Development Office

Welsh Office
Development Board for Rural Wales
Sports Council for Wales
Welsh Development Agency

Sir Philip Holland asked the Prime Minister what consideration she has given to the introduction of sunset legislation for all advisory non-departmental public bodies; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: Advisory non-departmental public bodies are normally set up by administrative action, though legislation may be used where, exceptionally, an advisory body's activities will involve significant continued government funding. The number of advisory bodies has been reduced from 1,485 in April 1979 to 1,087 in April 1984. Current arrangements provide for the continued justification for all advisory non-departmental public bodies to be reviewed on a three-yearly cycle. In the circumstances, I do not consider that to require legislation to provide for a finite life span for all advisory non-departmental public bodies, subject to renewal by Parliament, would provide sufficient additional benefit to justify the use of parliamentary time.

Sir Philip Holland asked the Prime Minister if Her Majesty's Government have any plans as part of their present policy of reducing the number of non-departmental public bodies to abolish the Commission for Racial Equality, the Community Projects Foundation, the consumer councils, the development corporations, the Equal Opportunities Commission, the industrial training boards, and the research councils; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: I shall reply to my hon. Friend shortly.

Mr. Peter Levene

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Prime Minister (1) when Her Majesty's Government first became aware that a certificate of qualification was required for Mr. Peter Levene to be employed as Chief of Defence Procurement;

(2) what criteria would have to be satisfied by Mr. Peter Levene before a certificate of qualification was issued for his appointment as Chief of Defence Procurement;

(3) whether the Civil Service Commissioners considered if a certificate of qualification could be granted to Mr. Peter Levene.

The Prime Minister: As explained in my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Erith and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) on 18 March, at column 366, having regard to all the circumstances, the Civil Service commissioners were satisfied that it was desirable that Mr. Levene's appointment, which is for a period not exceeding five years, should proceed without the issue of a certificate of qualification, under the provision of article 1(2)*(g)* of the Civil Service Order in Council 1982.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Prime Minister (1) on what date Her Majesty's Government first consulted the Civil Service Commissioners about the appointment of Mr. Peter Levene;

(2) when Her Majesty's Government first became aware that a secondment was required if Mr. Peter Levene was to become Chief of Defence Procurement; and from which organisation Mr. Peter Levene was to be seconded;

(3) what is the total yearly sum payable to Mr. Peter Levene, including payments for pension, in his new post as Chief of Defence Procurement;

(4) when the contract with Mr. Peter Levene as Chief of Defence Procurement was finalised; and why it is difficult, if not impossible to undo;

(5) what are the terms of compensation payable to Mr. Peter Levene in his post of Chief of Defence Procurement if his appointment is terminated prior to its completion;

(6) what is the minimum length of the contract between Mr. Peter Levene and Her Majesty's Government;

(7) when she expects to announce the final terms and conditions of Mr. Peter Levene's appointment as Chief of Defence Procurement;

(8) why no mention was made of secondment when the appointment of Mr. Peter Levene was announced on 19 December.

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Erith and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) on 18 March, at column *366*.

The First Civil Service Commissioner was consulted about Mr. Levene's appointment on 18 December last. When my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced the appointment on 19 December, he made it clear that its precise terms were still under discussion with the commission. Although at that stage a secondment was envisaged, no final decisions had been taken on its exact nature or from which organisation it might be arranged, other than that Mr. Levene would not be seconded from United Scientific Holdings. No mention of secondment was included in the announcement on 19 December because the detailed arrangements had yet to be decided.

Mr. Levene received his letter of appointment and began work on 19 March. He was appointed under a fixed-term contract which may be terminated by 12 months' notice in writing by either party and which has a maximum duration of five years, in accordance with paragraph 1(2)(g) of the Civil Service Order in Council 1982. If the appointment is terminated prior to its completion, Mr. Levene could be eligible to receive up to 12 months' pay in lieu of notice depending on the circumstances at the time.

Mr. Levene will receive an initial annual salary of £95,000. This will be subject to the same pay award percentage increases as those appropriate to permanent secretaries and on the same dates starting with the increase, if any, awarded with effect from 1 April 1986. In addition, pension contributions amounting to £12,500 a year will be paid by the Department on Mr. Levene's behalf. Mr. Levene has severed all connections with his former companies and divested himself of his shareholding in them.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Prime Minister whether the proposed secondment of Mr. Peter Levene was to be from a company that enjoyed Ministry of Defence contracts.

The Prime Minister: No final decisions had been taken on the organisation from which Mr. Levene was to be seconded when the possibility of secondment was abandoned.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Prime Minister if she was aware that the former company of Mr. Peter Levene was tendering for the Ministry of Defence contract for the new range of armoured personnel carriers at the time of his appointment as Chief of Defence Procurement.

The Prime Minister: Yes. Invitations to tender for the main production order for MCV 80 were issued in April 1984. Alvis, a subsidiary of United Scientific Holdings, is one of four contractors who have submitted bids. These are currently being evaluated.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Prime Minister if she anticipates any conflict of interest in the appointment of Mr. Peter Levene as Chief of Defence Procurement and the award of contracts for the new range of armoured personnel carriers.

The Prime Minister: No. Special arrangements are being made within the Ministry of Defence to ensure that Mr. Levene will not be personally involved in this or any other contract award which might involve any conflict of interest with his former industrial interests.

Civil Service (Appointments)

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Prime Minister how many persons have been appointed to the Civil Service in each year since 1979 without the issue of a certificate of qualification under the provisions of article 1(2)*(g)* of the Order in Council 1982.

The Prime Minister: The number of persons whose appointment to the Civil Service was approved without the issue of a certificate of qualification under the provisions of 1(2)*(g)* of the Civil Service Order in Council 1982 and under the similar provisions of 1(2)*(g)* of its 1978 predecessor in each year since 1979 was as follows:

	Number
1979	*11
1980	5
1981	4
1982	8
1983	8
1984	2

* Excluding holders of scientific research fellowships and certain sandwich students.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Live Animal Exports

Mr. Hancock asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he has any plans to bring forward legislation on the export of live animals from the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement.

Mrs. Fenner: I have no such plans.

There is already extensive legislation to protect the welfare of animals for export, which implements requirements laid down in Community directives. I refer the hon. Member to my reply to him yesterday, at column 511, in which I described some of these statutory provisions.

Mr. Hancock asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what response he is making to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals report on the international transportation of live animals, a copy of which has been sent to him; and if he plans any action in the light of it.

Mrs. Fenner: The society has sent me a copy of the report which it has presented to the EC Commission. I have advised the RSPCA that since it has placed the matter in the hands of the Commission, I propose to await the Commission's comments before commenting on the report. We will continue to implement the provisions of the Community directives protecting the welfare of animals in international transit. The society will know from meetings with me last summer and other extensive contacts with the Ministry that I do not accept its view either that we are failing to implement our Community obligations on exports, or that the society's trails of calf consignments have shown evidence of unnecessary suffering to the animals involved.

Farmed Deer

Mr. Corbett asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food what, in each of the last five years, was the number of farmed deer slaughtered *(a)* on farm and *(b)* in abattoirs in England and Wales.

Mrs. Fenner: This information is not collected by my Department. In its report on the welfare of farmed deer the Farm Animal Welfare Council records an estimate, made in 1983, that around 3,000 farmed deer were slaughtered annually in Great Britain. Deer are not normally slaughtered in abattoirs in England and Wales in any numbers.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Soldiers (House Purchase)

Rev. William McCrea asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether soldiers in the Republic of Ireland are permitted to purchase homes under the co-ownership scheme.

Mr. Chris Patten: Yes, providing applicants meet all of the conditions attaching to the scheme.

Domestic Fuel Prices

Rev. Martin Smyth asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what has been the overall increase in the price of household coal, town gas and electricity for domestic consumers in the last five years in Northern Ireland.

Dr. Boyson: Figures supplied by the coal trade show that the price of group 3 bituminous coal increased by 67 per cent. This increase includes a surcharge imposed during the miners' strike.

The general purpose block tariffs—which apply to domestic consumers—for towns gas in Belfast increased by 58 per cent.

The price of electricity for domestic consumers increased by 21 per cent.

Gas Conversion (Safety)

Rev. Martin Smyth asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will meet representatives of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association regarding the safety aspects of conversion from town gas to liquid petroleum gas.

Dr. Boyson: I will arrange for my officials to meet representatives of the association.

Farmed Deer

Mr. Corbett asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what, in each of the last five years, was the number of farmed deer slaughtered *(a)* on farm and *(b)* in abattoirs in Northern Ireland.

Dr. Boyson: There is no record of any commercial deer farming, and no deer have been slaughtered in slaughterhouses.

EC Anti-poverty Programme

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much money Northern Ireland has received from the earlier EEC anti-poverty programme; and if he will list the projects which benefited.

Mr. Chris Patten: Information obtained from the European Commission indicates that between 1975 and 1979 a total of £97,717 was paid as part of the programme of pilot schemes and studies to combat poverty in respect of projects in Northern Ireland. Projects benefiting from the programme covered research into the following:

—Belfast: areas of special social need
—Voluntary organisations providing social services in Northern Ireland
—Belfast welfare rights.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Diplomatic Immunity

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if, pursuant to the answer of 14 March, *Official Report,* columns 248-9, he will specify the offences alleged to have been committed by diplomats known to have been transferred from the United Kingdom followng representations by his Department in each year from 1982 to date.

Mr. Luce: I shall write to the hon. Member.

Argentina

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he transmitted to the Argentine Government the latest set of proposals for the re-establishment of confidence between Britain and Argentina; what was contained in the proposals; and if he has now received any reply.

Mr. Luce: The position remains as my right hon. and learned Friend explained to the House during the debate on the Falkland Islands (Foreign Affairs Committee Report) on 14 March at column 499. Details of our continuing exchanges with Argentina must for the time being remain confidential.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what countries he has consulted or expects to consult regarding the setting up of a multilaterally based conservation and management regime for the Falklands fisheries;

(2) if it is his intention that Argentina should be included in the proposed multilateral fishing regime for the Falklands.

Mr. Luce: As my right hon. and learned Friend told the House during the debate on the Falkland Islands

(Foreign Affairs Committee Report) on 14 March at columns 495-96, it would not be helpful to go into detail at this stage about our exploration of the possibility of the establishment of a multilaterally-based conservation and management regime for fisheries around the Falkland Islands. This is an important and complex matter which we need to pursue on a confidential basis.

British Air Space

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many diplomatic representations protesting at intrusions by aircraft of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics into British air space have been made since the Government took office.

Mr. Rifkind: The information is not readily available but I will arrange for it to be published in the *Official Report* as soon as possible.

Trident

Mr. Kaufman asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Soviet Government were formally notified of Her Majesty's Government's decision to purchase the Trident missile system.

Mr. Luce: No. The then Secretary of State for Defence announced in Parliament on 15 July 1980 the Government's decision to acquire the Trident submarine-launched ballistic missile system. The background was fully set out in open Government documents 80/23 and 82/1.

Nuclear Test Ban

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures Her Majesty's Government are taking to fulfil the obligations they accepted as a signatory of the partial test ban treaty and the non-proliferation treaty with regard to a nuclear test ban.

Mr. Luce: We continue to play a full part in relevant discussions at the Geneva conference on disarmament, where we have tabled two significant working papers on "Peaceful Nuclear Explosions" and "Verification Aspects of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty". We and other Western delegations have also tabled at the conference on disarmament a draft mandate for a nuclear test ban ad hoc committee which would permit the examination of specific issues with a view to negotiation of a treaty on the subject. In addition, we are closely involved in the useful technical work performed by the ad hoc group of scientific experts appointed by the conference on disarmament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Refreshment Department

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed, as representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will update the figures given in reply to the hon. Member for Cheltenham (Mr. Irving), *Official Report*, 1 May 1984, column *120*, regarding the total additional cost to the Refreshment Department of the House of sitting from *(a)* 10.30 pm to midnight and *(b)* from midnight to 2 am; and if he will give similar estimates for such periods after 2 am as figures are conveniently available.

Mr. Beith: The estimated approximate additional cost of employing the necessary, hourly paid, staff of the Refreshment Department when the House sits from 10·30 pm to midnight is £75, from midnight to 2 am is £175 and from 2 am onwards is £77 per hour.

Police Services

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed, as representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will estimate the average additional cost of police services in the House of the House sitting *(a)* from 10.30 pm to midnight, *(b)* from midnight to 2 am and *(c)* for such periods after 2 am as figures are conveniently available.

Mr. Beith: The information requested is as follows:

10.30 pm to midnight	£497 per hour
Midnight to 2 am	£662 per hour
2 am onwards	£331 per hour

Commission Staff

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed, as representing the House of Commons Commission, what is the average number of staff employed by the Commission who are on duty in the House when it is sitting *(a)* from 10.30 pm to midnight, *(b)* from midnight to 2 am and *(c)* for such periods after 2 am as figures are conveniently available.

Mr. Beith: The information requested, in relation to each House Department and Mr. Speaker's Office, is as follows:

Mr. Speaker's Office: One, irrespective of time of rising of House.

Clerk's Department: 17, irrespective of time of rising of House.

Library Department: 14, irrespective of time of rising of House.

Official Report: 10.30 pm–midnight, 30; midnight–2 am, 22; 2 am onwards, 24.

Serjeant at Arms Department: 10.30 pm–midnight, 32; midnight–2 am, 24; 2 am onwards, 24.

Refreshment Department: 10.30 pm–midnight, 28; midnight–2 am, 24; 2 am onwards, 19.

Administration Department: Nil.

Written Answers

Mr. Dubs asked the Lord Privy Seal if he will introduce a standing order to provide that, when a day's sitting is lost, questions down for written answer for that day will automatically be transferred to the next sitting day.

Mr. Biffen: I propose to refer the hon. Gentleman's suggestion to the Procedure Committee for its consideration.

DEFENCE

Vacant Departmental Property

Mr. Hordern asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish a table in the *Official Report* showing the number of houses and flats, listed separately, owned by his Department, which have been unoccupied for more than six months but less than one year, between one and two years and more than two years, respectively.

Mr. Lee: Information is not held in the form requested. However, from statistics readily available the following table shows combined numbers of service houses and flats owned by this Department which have been vacant for more than six months and two years, and civilian houses and flats which have been vancant for more than six months.

	6 months	*2 years*
Service	4,224	1,749
Civilian	283	—

Of the service houses which have been vacant for two years or more 662 are being held against specific future requirements, 256 have already been passed to the PSA for disposal and 651 are surplus and disposal is being progressed. The requirement for the balance of 180 is under review.

The total stock of service quarters is 84,933.

HM Forces (Subsidies)

Mr. Hordern asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether subsidies are received by members of Her Majesty's forces serving in the United States of America.

Mr. Lee: Members of Her Majesty's forces serving in the United States of America are paid, in addition to their military salary, a number of allowances to offset the essential extra costs which they incur in living and working in their overseas station compared with the United Kingdom. These allowances are kept under regular review. Deductions continue to be made from the salary of these personnel for appropriate charges, such as those for accommodation, which they would pay if they were stationed in the United Kingdom.

Hostel Accommodation

Mr. Hordern asked the Secretary of State for Defence how much hostel accommodation is provided by his Department and at what cost, including any element of subsidy to fees charged.

Mr. Lee: Hostel accommodation is provided for Ministry of Defence staff at six establishments: AWRE Aldermaston, RAE Farnborough, RAE Aberporth, EQD Aquila, Met Office HQ Bracknell and Her Majesty's dockyard, Rosyth. These provide a total capacity for 953 residents. The latest information available — for the financial year 1983-84 — recorded expenditure of £1,370,678 and income of £1,058,147, representing a subsidy of £312,531.

Exercise Red Shoes

Mr. Cohen asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is the total cost to his Department's budget of Exercise Red Shoes.

Mr. Stanley: The cost of Exercise Red Shoes is subsumed within the total provision for training and is not separately identified.

Radioactive Waste

Mr. Frank Cook asked the Secretary of State for Defence how much radioactive waste arises each year from military sources; and how these wastes are disposed of.

Mr. Butler: Very small quantities of liquid waste and airborne material are released to the environment. These are subject to restrictions agreed with the Department of the Environment or the Scottish Development Department. Annual releases are reported in DOE publication "Digest of Environmental Protection and Water Statistics (Radioactivity Additional Tables)." Disposal of low-level solid wastes is by shallow land burial either on site or using the national disposal service. Other solid wastes, which prior to 1983 were included in the United Kingdom sea disposal operation, are currently stored. It is not in the national interest to give details of the quantities of solid waste generated by Ministry of Defence programmes.

Anti-ballistic Missile System

Mr. Meadowcroft asked the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the feasibility of a European anti-ballistic missile system.

Mr. Butler: No consideration has been given to an independent European anti-ballistic missile system.

Trident

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether the £700 million originally allocated for the missile processing facilities at Coulport was to come from the United Kingdom proportion of the Trident budget or the United States of America's proportion of the Trident budget.

Mr. Butler: The £700 million is the approximate saving at 1984-85 average prices and at an exchange rate of £1=$1·38 to the Trident budget of processing missiles at King's Bay instead of Coulport. Savings apply to both the United States and the United Kingdom components of the budget.

Mr. Kaufman asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will give an up-to-date estimate of the total cost of purchase of the Trident missile system.

Mr. Butler: I refer to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence to the hon. Members for Edinburgh, East (Mr. Strang), for Cynon Valley (Mrs. Clwyd) and for Leeds, West (Mr. Meadowcroft) on 29 January, at columns 134-37. The estimated cost of Trident is £9,285 million at average 1984-85 prices and at an exchange rate of £1=$1·38.

Mr. Kaufman asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether the communications and satellite missile guidance facilities necessary for the deployment of the Trident missile will be under the operational control of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Butler: The facilities necessary for communicating with submarines of the United Kingdom Trident force and other facilities that are essential to the effective operation of the force will be under the operational control of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Kaufman asked the Secretary of State for Defence to what extent the proposed Trident missile force for the United Kingdom represents an escalation in nuclear capability compared with the present Polaris force, in terms of total megatonnage, targeting and accuracy.

Mr. Butler: In comparison to Polaris, the United Kingdom Trident force will provide an enhanced capability to the extent necessary to maintain an effective deterrent in the face of Soviet ABM defensive capabilities as they are modernised and improved. It has been the practice of successive Governments not to discuss the detailed capabilities of our nuclear weapons systems.

Military Research and Development

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps have been taken to ensure a greater share of spin-off arising from military research and development in the civil sector;

(2) if he will make a statement on what steps he is taking to ensure the transfer of technology from the defence industry to civil production.

Mr. Butler: While the primary purpose of defence research must be to meet defence requirements, the importance of identifying and exploiting ideas with commercial application is fully recognised. Work carried out in the defence research establishments is published where possible. Reports on defence work carried out in the establishments and elsewhere are collected and disseminated by the Defence research information centre. It is also part of the role of Ministry of Defence patents officers to identify advances which need to be patented in the interests of protection or exploitation. Advances which are considered to have civil potential are offered to the British Technology Group. There is also a regular exchange of ideas with industry through normal contacts between the research establishments and companies. With a view to enhancing exploitation further, agreement has been reached for the establishment of a private sector company called Defence Technology Enterprises Limited for the specific purpose of identifying and exploiting spin-off opportunities in the defence research establishments. The company is now in the process of working up its organisation and procedures.

Following the Secretary of State's instructions that encouragement should be given to obtaining the maximum exploitation of spin-off from new technology generated within industry under MOD-funded extramural contracts, the Ministry's contracts staff have entered into discussions with the Confederation of British Industries to examine ways of implementing those instructions to the full.

Nuclear Tests (Compensation)

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Defence what factors are causing delays in resolving the question of compensation for ex-service men and widows of service men who were injured or damaged as a result of British nuclear tests in the Pacific; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Butler: The Government have no evidence that injury or harm was caused to those involved in the British nuclear test programme in the Pacific. The question of compensation does not therefore arise. The result of the National Radiological Protection Board study of the health experience of test participants is expected to be available in late 1986, and the Government will review their position in the light of the board's report.

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department asked the National Radiological Protection Board to study the records of service men and others who took part in British nuclear tests in the Pacific; why his Department has not released the medical records of those involved; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Butler: Examination of the service records, in co-operation with the National Radiological Protection Board, to establish who participated in the British atmospheric nuclear test programmes in the Pacific and in Australia has been under way since the study was commissioned in October 1983. No information from the service medical records is required by NRPB, which will obtain the necessary mortality and morbidity data from Department of Health and Social Security sources.

Married Quarters

Mr. Hordern asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is the cost of subsidies in the married quarter charges made to the United States Air Force.

Mr. Lee: The reduction in such charges which took effect from 1 October 1983 will amount to about £1 million in 1984-85.

Vessels (Safety Precautions)

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions have taken place regarding safety precautions in relation to possible incidents involving submarines and surface vessels.

Mr. Lee: As I said in response to a question from the hon. Member for Caernarfon (Mr. Wigley) on 12 February at column *140*, procedures relating to the movement of submarines in the waters around the British Isles are kept under regular review.

Cruise Missile Convoys

Mr. Dubs asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many representations he has received about cruise missile convoys exercising off base.

Mr. Stanley: The Ministry of Defence has received 45 letters on this subject from Members of Parliament and members of the public since cruise missiles were deployed at RAF Greenham Common at the end of 1983.

Saxon Vehicle

Mr. Best asked the Secretary of State for Defence what was the original requirement for the Saxon vehicle; what is the present planned provision of Saxon, naming the units to which it will be deployed; how many have been deployed; what is the time scale for the deployment of the remainder; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Butler: Saxon was selected to provide a wheeled armoured personnel carrier for infantry battalions in 19 and 24 Infantry Brigades with a role in reinforcing 1 (BR) Corps, the battalions of the United Kingdom Mobile Force (Land) and the supporting troops of the formations to which they belong. Current plans envisage the provision of approximately 500 Saxon, of which some 70 have been deployed. Issue of the remainder is expected to run until 1987-88. Decisions on further purchases will depend on priorities across the defence budget.

Nuclear Tests (Servicemen)

Mr. Carter-Jones asked the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on the subject of the possible effects of nuclear irradiation on British servicemen who took part in nuclear tests in the 1950s and 1960s from the British Legion, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, and other such organisations and individuals; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Butler: Whilst I have not received representations from the Royal British Legion or the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, I and my predecessors have received numerous representations from the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association as well as from individuals on various aspects of the British nuclear test programme. Many claim that the illnesses they are now suffering are due to their having been exposed to ionising radiation during the trials. The aim of the study which the Ministry of Defence has commissioned from the National Radiological Protection Board is to show whether the health of participants has been disadvantaged in any way as a result of their involvement in the trials programme. The study is expected to be complete by autumn 1986. As I have explained in the note, which I enclosed with my letter of 6 December 1984 to all Members of Parliament, the radiological safety precautions taken during the trials were such that of the participants the vast majority experienced only negligible exposure to radiation and none should have suffered harm.

Radar

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether he is satisfied with Western radar facilities in the area north of Scotland.

Mr. Butler: The entire network of United Kingdom air defence radars is being modernised. This improved system, together with other NATO radars in Norway and Iceland and supplemented by information from airborne early warning forces, will substantially enhance radar coverage to the north of Scotland.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proposals or requests he has now received regarding the use of Mount Pleasant airport for civilian purposes; and what action he has taken;

(2) if he will give details of the arrangements for the cost of using the Mount Pleasant airport for civil purposes and for civilian use of military flights to Mount Pleasant.

Mr. Stanley: The use of Mount Pleasant airport for civilian purposes together with the costs of such use, including that of civilian use of military flights, is currently under consideration with the civil and military commissioners in the island and with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The arrangements are still being finalised. I also refer the hon. Member to his reply from my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on 30 January at column *202*.

Submarine Communications

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is the latest situation regarding examination of possible sites for the erection of an extremely low frequency system for submarine communications; what bodies have been consulted about this proposal; what medical advice has been sought; and when he expects to make a statement.

Mr. Lee: As my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Defence Procurement said in reply to a question by the hon. Member for Edinburgh, East (Mr. Strang) on 19 March 1985 at column *436*, consideration of this proposal is at an early stage. So far the only body consulted is the CEGB, but should a suitable site be identified, and if we decide to proceed with an ELF communications system, we shall carry out the usual consultations with the local planning authority for the area in which the chosen site is located. The Ministry of Defence's medical advisers keep abreast of all scientific and medical advice in this field.

I shall inform the House in due course if we do eventually decide to build an ELF transmitter in the United Kingdom.

RAF Basic Trainer

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Defence when he now expects to announce the award of the contract for the Royal Air Force basic trainer.

Mr. Butler: The hon. Gentleman will be aware of the statement made earlier today by my right hon. Friend.

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what criteria he will use to decide on the award of the contract of the Royal Air Force basic trainer;

(2) what are the employment implications in each case in relation to the competing tenders for the Royal Air Force basic trainer.

Mr. Butler: I have nothing to add to the statement made earlier today by my right hon. Friend.

Mr. Foulkes asked the Secretary of State for Defence what information he has received from Pratt and Whitney regarding location of an aero-engine unit at Prestwick should the Royal Air Force basic trainer contract be awarded to British Aerospace.

Mr. Butler: I was told by Pratt and Whitney of Canada that it would set up an engine maintenance and overhaul facility at Prestwick, should a Pratt and Whitney engine be selected for the new RAF basic trainer. The firm also made it clear that, if its engine was not selected, there would nevertheless remain the possibility of the facility being located in the United Kingdom.

Military Facilities (US Forces)

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will list any new facilities which are currently under consideration for use by the United States forces in Scotland;

(2) if he will list the locations where existing facilities made available to the United States forces have been extended since 1980 in Scotland;

(3) if he will list the location of facilities made available to the United States forces in Scotland since 1980.

Mr. Lee: There are none.

Airspace Violations

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether British armed forces are placed on alert when Soviet military aircraft intrude into British airspace.

Mr. Stanley: As has been the case for many years and under successive Governments, certain RAF air defence aircraft based in the United Kingdom are held permanently at quick reaction alert in order to be able to intercept intrusions by unidentified aircraft and by Soviet military aircraft into the United Kingdom NATO air defence region, which includes United Kingdom national airspace.

Dockyard Disputes (Naval Ratings)

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he has examined the possible deployment of naval ratings in the event of industrial action by civilian staff at Rosyth and Plymouth Dockyards.

Mr. Lee: It is not our policy to discuss contingency plans in the event of industrial action.

Royal Dockyards

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce his plans for the future management of the royal dockyards; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Lee: We wish to complete our present deliberations as soon as possible.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the final report prepared on the royal dockyards by his former personal adviser Mr. Peter Levene.

Mr. Lee: No. Mr. Levene's report and subsequent studies are part of the process of providing advice to Ministers.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the alternative report to that of Mr. Peter Levene prepared by the chief executive dockyards.

Mr. Lee: No such report exists although our present deliberations on the future arrangements for the dockyards are wide-ranging.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence how many defence manufacturers approached by Mr. Peter Levene with a view to their interest in running the royal dockyards were *(a)* shipbuilding and ship repair firms and *(b)* other manufacturing firms.

Mr. Lee: About three quarters of the firms in the defence industry sector approached by Mr. Levene are involved in the manufacture or repair of ships or their systems.

Anti-ship System (Highlands and Islands)

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has at any time held discussions with the United States authorities for the installation of the ground launched anti-ship system in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Mr. Stanley: No.

Dockyards (Manpower)

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list his most recent estimates for the numbers of employees he expects at *(a)* Rosyth and *(b)* Plymouth dockyard in the current year and for the next three years.

Mr. Lee: The civilian manpower targets for 1 April 1985 at Rosyth and Devonport dockyards are 6,306 and 13,055, respectively. Decisions on targets for later years have not yet been taken.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate how many apprentices will be *(a)* recruited and *(b)* retained as full-time employees at Rosyth dockyard in the current year and for the next three years.

Mr. Lee: Discussions with the trades unions on the apprentice entry for the current year at Rosyth dockyard are still proceeding and final decisions have yet to be taken on the precise size of the intake and on the number of apprentices completing their training this year who will be offered employment.

As to future years, arrangements will be subject to discussions with the trades unions in the usual way nearer the time.

RFA Refits

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence which refits, including Royal Fleet Auxilary vessels, originally earmarked for Rosyth dockyard, have been sent to private firms for refitting since February 1983; to which firms they have been sent; and at what cost to the defence budget.

Mr. Lee: No refits of Her Majesty's ships or Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels programmed to be undertaken at Rosyth have been sent to private firms in the period in question. Certain unprogrammed tasks of a lesser order of magnitude, and which in some cases have arisen at short notice, have, when economic capacity has not been available at Rosyth, been undertaken by contractors. The refit of a shock test vehicle which was to have been done commercially has recently been offered to Rosyth. Its capacity to undertake the necessary work is currently being assessed.

Armoured Personnel Carriers

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department is considering a tender from United Scientific Holdings or its associate company Alvis for the manufacture of a new range of armoured personnel carriers.

Mr. Butler: Alvis is one of four firms participating in competitive tendering for production of the Army's new MCV 80 vehicle. Tenders have been submitted to the Ministry of Defence and are now being assessed.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is the estimated total value of his Department's contract for its new range of armoured personnel carriers.

Mr. Butler: It would not be appropriate to disclose an estimate of MCV 80 production contract values while competitive tenders are still being assessed.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence when the first orders of the contract for the new range of armoured personnel carriers will be placed.

Mr. Butler: Our intention is to let contracts for MCV 80 production in mid-1985.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects subsequent orders for the new range of armoured personnel carriers to be placed.

Mr. Butler: A decision whether to let contracts this summer for all or only a part of the total requirement will be taken only when competitive tenders have been fully assessed.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is the role of the new Chief of Defence Procurement in the examination of tenders for the initial, and subsequent, contracts to manufacture the new range of armoured personnel carriers.

Mr. Butler: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him earlier today by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Exercise Brave Defender

Mr. Alexander asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will now give details of the aims and scope of Exercise Brave Defender; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Heseltine: Brave Defender is a national military home defence exercise. The aims of the exercise are to test plans and procedures for the ground defence of vital establishments; liaison between the military and civil authorities over military home defence matters; and, to demonstrate the Government's commitment to home defence. It is planned that about 65,000 service men, both regular and reservist, who would have a home defence role on mobilisation will take part. The Territorial Army, including the home service force, will have an important role to play in the exercise. There will also be some US forces involved in the exercise.

The exercise, which comprises two phases and a preparatory period is scheduled for 2 to 13 September 1985. It will take place in various locations around Great Britain, and will test the revised home defence plans described in paragraph 413 of the "Statement on the Defence Estimates 1984" (Cmnd. 9227).

The first phase consists of practice mobilisation of home defence forces and their deployment to the installations they are to defend.

A representative selection of installations will be chosen as key points for exercise purposes. The second phase will involve guarding a variety of installations, practising defending them against simulated attack and forming mobile reaction forces. The installations used in the exercise will not necessarily be actual key points, information about which is classified. Enemy forces will be drawn from units with roles outside the United Kingdom and will include a small element from BAOR.

Where possible and realistic, all exercise activity will be confined to Ministry of Defence land and training areas, but it will be necessary to use some private land. Appropriate arrangements will be made with the landowners concerned. Whilst inevitably there will be greater than average military movement during the exercise, every effort will be made to minimise inconvenience to the public.

Details of the locations to be used in the exercise have yet to be finalised, but hon. Members in whose constituencies the exercise will take place will in due course be receiving an invitation to attend.

ENERGY

Coal (Polish Imports)

Mr. Bidwell asked the Secretary of State for Energy if he will estimate the amount of coal, in tonnes, and its value, imported from Poland during the whole calendar year commencing from the beginning of the miners' strike in 1984; and how these figures compare with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Mr. David Hunt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mr. Parry) on coal imports on 13 November 1984 at column 167.

Sizewell Inquiry

Mr. Alton asked the Secretary of State for Energy if he will make a statement on the length of the Sizewell inquiry; and what the total cost will be to the taxpayer.

Mr. Goodlad: The inquiry opened on 11 January 1983 and closed on 7 March 1985. Costs up to 28 February 1985 falling to my Department were some £517,000. Other costs incurred to the same date in running the inquiry and recoverable from the CEGB by agreement with the board total approximately £1,825,000. Costs incurred by parties to the inquiry, including the CEGB's own costs, are a matter for them and are not included in this total.

European Community (Energy Prices)

Mr. Neil Hamilton asked the Secretary of State for Energy what information he has on trends in comparative industrial energy prices in the member states of the European Economic Community.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith: The latest available information on trends in comparative industrial energy prices, covering most of the member states of the European Economic Community, is contained in "European Industrial Energy Prices, September/October 1984," published by the CBI in February, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Industry

Sir John Biggs-Davison asked the Secretary of State for Energy what measures are taken by his Department to encourage the growth of the liquefied petroleum gas industry.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith: The production of petroleum gases in the United Kingdom and from its continental shelf has increased rapidly in recent years under the United Kingdom's petroleum licensing and fiscal regimes. I neither control the prices of liquefied petroleum nor restrict the industry's commercial opportunities. My Department performs within the Government the normal duties of industrial sponsorship in relation to the liquefied petroleum gas industry.

Energy Prices

Rev. Martin Smyth asked the Secretary of State for Energy what has been the overall increase in the price of coal, gas and electricity for domestic consumers in England, Scotland and Wales in the last five years.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith: The price indices for domestic coal, gas and electricity are components of the general index of retail prices. Between 1980 and 1984, the latest period for which data are available, the index for coal increased by 44·7 per cent., that for gas by 82·3 per cent. and that for electricity by 38·7 per cent. The retail price index increased by 33·4 per cent. over the same period. However, between April 1983 and December 1984 when the RPI increased by 7·8 per cent. the indices for coal, gas and electricity rose by only 16·7 per cent., 4·2 per cent. and 2·1 per cent., respectively. Separate indices for England, Scotland and Wales are not readily available and could be derived only at disproportionate cost.

Coal Industry Dispute

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Energy (1) what was the total cost of the National Coal Board's advertising campaign in the media during the recent coal mining strike;

(2) what was the total cost of individual mailings to miners by the National Coal Board during the mining dispute.

Mr. David Hunt: These are matters for the National Coal Board.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Occupational Therapists

Mr. Pawsey asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) how many occupational therapists were in post in the National Health Service in 1979; how that compares with the last year for which statistics are available; and if he will break the figures down by region;

(2) if he is satisfied with the present number of occupational therapists employed by the National Health Service;

(3) what proposals or evidence he has received suggesting that the number of National Health Service occupational therapists should be increased.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The number in whole-time equivalents of occupational therapists employed in the NHS in England in 1979 was 2,528; that for 1983, the latest date for which figures are available, was 3,376, an increase of 34 per cent. The regional breakdown is shown in the table.

Figures for Scotland and Wales are a matter for my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.

I refer my hon. Friend to my reply to the hon. Member for Eccles (Mr. Carter-Jones), on 4 December 1984 at column *171* and to the right hon. Member for Manchester, Wythenshawe (Mr. Morris) on 13 December 1984 at columns *591-592*.

NHS occupational therapists: regional figures

Whole time equivalent rounded

Regional health authority	*1979*	*1983*
Northern	99	132
Yorkshire	156	218
Trent	202	350
East Anglian	126	183
North West Thames	229	263
North East Thames	198	306
South East Thames	198	240
South West Thames	204	253
Wessex	173	216
Oxford	192	235
South Western	198	284
West Midlands	217	273
Mersey	127	160
North Western	163	257
London PG Teaching Hospitals	46	6
	2,528	3,376

Source: Annual Census of NHS
Non-Medical Manpower (SR7)

Housing Benefit

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will break down the figures for 1982-83 and 1983-84 in table 3.12.5 of Cmnd. 9428-II, public expenditure White Paper, showing how much of the expenditure paid to each category of beneficiary was attributable to housing benefit and distinguishing between rent rebates and rate rebates.

Mr. Whitney: The cost of housing benefit in 1982-83 and 1983-84 is estimated as follows*:

£ million

Broad groups of beneficiaries	*1982-83†*		*1983-84‡*	
	Rent rebates and allowances	*Rate rebates*	*Rent rebates and allowances*	*Rate rebates*
Elderly	550	330	1,300	700
Disabled people and long-term sick	90	50	170	70
Short-term sick	—	—	40	15
Unemployed people	200	90	650	290
Widows and orphans	—	—	10	5
Family‖	60	20	250	100
People in work	100	70	120	70
Total	1,000	560	2,540	1,250

* All figures are rounded, and amounts of less than £5 million are not shown.

† Includes rebates and allowances awarded under the old local authority schemes, together with those awarded under the partial start of the new scheme (from November 1982).

‡ Includes rebates and allowances awarded from the full start of the new scheme (April 1983).

‖ Housing benefit mainly for one parent families receiving supplementary benefit.

Care about Food Campaign

Mr. Coombs asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what information he has on the care about food campaign to encourage nurses to press for an improvement in the nutritional value of food provided within the National Health Service; and if he has any plans to respond to it.

Mr. John Patten: The Department was represented at the launch, on 13 March, of the nurses' care about food campaign. We have asked the organisers to keep us fully informed about its progress.

"Remedial Therapist" (Correspondence)

Mr. Alfred Morris asked the Secretary of State for Social Services, pursuant to the answer of 13 March, if he has now replied to the editor of *Remedial Therapist*; and if he will publish in the *Official Report* the letter from the editor and his reply.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I shall be replying to the editor of *Remedial Therapist* shortly and will write to the right hon. Member when I have done so.

War Widows' Benefit

Mr. Penhaligon asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many people are in receipt of war widows' benefit in Cornwall.

Mr. Whitney: Approximately 600.

AUT (Research Contracts)

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what consultations he had with representatives of the Association of University Teachers before taking his decision to insert clauses in research contracts awarded by his Department limiting any salary revisions requested by contract holders to changes in the level of inflation and stipulating that applications for extra money for promotion or pay rises would have to be agreed with his Department.

Mr. John Patten: We have not inserted clauses in research contracts limiting revisions in salaries to changes in the level of inflation.

Agreements, in the main with universities, have for many years provided for research staff to be appointed on the normal terms and conditions of service for the university's or institution's own research staff. Estimates by researchers for expenditure each year are considered and a cash allocation agreed which takes account of past and expected pay increases. The Department's approval has naturally been required for any additional expenditure, whether it is for extra staff, changes such as promotion or other additional costs.

Dental Treatment

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services when he expects the investigation which is presently being conducted into dentists' claims for providing dental treatment within the National Health Service to be concluded.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The committee of inquiry into unnecessary dental treatment, announced in my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Staffordshire, Moorlands (Mr. Knox) on 5 December 1984 at column *217* is expected to report about the middle of this year.

Septic Abortion

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many discharges from hospital there were following diagnosis of septic abortion for each year since 1955.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The available information is given in the table.

Estimated number of discharges (including deaths) from NHS hospitals in England and Wales with main diagnosis of septic abortion.

Year	*Estimated number*
1958	1,900
1959	2,400
1960	2,800
1961	2,900
1962	2,570
1963	2,760
1964	3,050
1965	3,050
1966	2,560
1967	2,530
1968	3,110
1969	2,080
1970	2,020
1971	1,600
1972	970
1973	930
1974	540
1975	610
1976	700
1977	680
1978	640
1979	620
1980	380
1981	450
1982	390

Abortions

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many injuries have occurred to resident and non-resident women as a result of abortion; what procedure was used; and how many weeks' gestation the women were in each year since 1968.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: Figures for resident women only are published in table 4.2 (1974-1980) and table 17 (1981-1983) in "Abortion Statistics", copies of which are in the Library. The remaining information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Women (Pensions)

Mr. Ashley asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) how the pension entitlement of women who worked only or mainly during the war years is calculated; what are the criteria for entitlement; and if he will give these greater publicity;

(2) how many women are receiving a pension in their own right based solely or mainly on the contributions they made whilst they were working during the war years; what is his estimate of the number who may be entitled to such a pension but have not claimed it; and what leaflets his Department publishes about the pension position of women, now over 60 years, who worked only or mainly during the war years.

Mr. Whitney: It is not possible to identify women receiving a retirement pension based wholly or mainly on wartime insurance. Entitlement to retirement pension depends on contributions paid over the contributor's working life. Contributions paid to insurance schemes in existence before 1948 may be counted for this purpose provided the insurance cover was live in 1948. When retirement pension is claimed any relevant contributions paid prior to 1948 are taken into account. There are no special leaflets on this subject but information on how the retirement pension is calculated, including pre-1948 insurance, is contained in leaflet NP 32 "Your Retirement Pension", obtainable from local offices of the Department.

Timothy Palliser

Mrs. Beckett asked the Secretary of State for Social Services when he expects to be able to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Derby, South raising the case of Timothy Palliser, first sent to his office in May 1984 and on which an answer has repeatedly been promised and was expected last week.

Mr. Newton: I replied to the hon. Member on 20 March, and regret the delay which has occurred in considering the difficult legal issue raised by this case.

Anti-Poverty Programme

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what is the procedure for making bids to the EEC under its anti-poverty programme.

Mr. John Patten: Applications for financial assistance under this programme have to be forwarded to the Commission with the approval of member state Governments. Applications are being considered by the different parts of the United Kingdom separately and then forwarded to the Commission through this Department. As Scotland is not participating in this programme, no bids for projects in Scotland will be put forward to the Commission.

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how much money England has received from the earlier EEC anti-poverty programme; and if he will list the projects which benefited.

Mr. John Patten: Information obtained from the European Commission indicates that the following amounts were received from the Community in respect of projects in England which participated in the earlier anti-poverty programme (1975 to 1980):

	£
Seven Family Day Centre Projects in London and Liverpool	432,433
London Voluntary Service Council: Community Work Service	82,447
National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux: Tribunal Representation Unit, Wolverhampton	66,849
	581,729

In addition the United Kingdom as a whole received:

	£
For participation in a cross national study on aspects of poverty in the United Kingdom, France and West Germany	171,100
For a national report on poverty in the United Kingdom	96,500
	849,329

Mentally Ill People

Mr. Meadowcroft asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what safeguards he recommends to ensure that patients discharged from long-term institutional psychiatric or mental handicap care have an appropriate place to go to in the community.

Mr. John Patten: We expect health and local authorities to work together, with voluntary organisations where appropriate, in planning the transfer of patients from long-term hospital care in order to ensure that there is appropriate alternative provision available. Decisions on discharges are for those people directly responsible for clinical care and we expect them to assure themselves that sound arrangements have been made for a patient's accommodation and whatever continuing support is required before he or she leaves hospital.

Private Medicines (Abuse)

Mr. Meacher asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what action he is taking to identify and remedy private medicine abuses in the 155 district health authority areas other than the 37 chosen at random where audit reports have already been carried out.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I wrote to all health authority chairmen on 6 December 1984 about the importance of ensuring that arrangements for collecting income due to the National Health Service from private practice, overseas visitors and patients treated after road traffic accidents were operating effectively. All health authorities which were not already reviewing their arrangements were required to do so urgently, to take whatever corrective action might be necessary to conform with the relevant guidance without delay, and to ensure that all sums due are collected promptly and in full. Regional chairmen were asked to report to me by the end of this month on the adequacy of arrangements in their districts. We are also reviewing our guidance on the management of private practice, with a view to producing a consolidated revision so that all concerned understand what is required.

Industrial Dispute, Newcastle

Dr. Glyn asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he is satisfied that all outstanding claims resulting from the industrial action at Newcastle have been settled; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Whitney: Some of the claims made during the period of industrial action have not yet been finally determined, but these are being cleared as quickly as possible. Where claims have not yet been settled in full, or normal payment methods cannot yet be restored, provisional payments and emergency payment arrangements are continuing as necessary.

Glue Ear

Mrs. Ann Winterton asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many people have received treatment for glue ear in each of the last five years; and how many of these patients were children under 16 years of age in each of those years.

Mr. John Patten: Information is not available centrally in precisely the form requested. The available information for inpatients is given in the table.

Estimated number of inpatient cases treated in NHS hospitals in England and Wales with main diagnosis of chronic mucoid otitis media

Year	Aged 0-14	Estimated number 15 and over	All ages
1979	4,800	210	5,010
1980	6,510	390	6,900
1981	7,290	540	7,830
1982	8,290	540	8,830

Limited List Prescribing

Mrs. Ann Winterton asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will give his reasons for not including Mucolex or any similar product as a preparation which may be prescribed under his limited list proposals.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The Chief Medical Officer's group of independent medical and pharmaceutical experts advised us that all clinical needs were met by the selected list to be introduced on 1 April, and we accepted that advice.

Medical Manpower

Mr. Ralph Howell asked the Secretary of State for Social Services when he expects to publish the advisory committee report on medical manpower; and how long he has been considering this report.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: I refer my hon. Friend to my reply to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton, North-East (Mrs Short) on 11 March at column *75*.

Aids

Mr. Knox asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he has made a decision on the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 provisions to be made available to help to control the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1985 have been laid today and will come into effect tomorrow. These regulations will make the disease subject to certain provisions of the 1984 Act which already operate in respect of other infectious diseases. They are intended for use in very exceptional circumstances only. They will allow for medical examination, removal to hospital and detention there of patients in a dangerously infectious state and will be used if ever the necessity should arise. The regulations will also allow restrictions to be placed on the handling of bodies of AIDS sufferers.

I am satisfied that the authorities do not require any further new legal powers at the moment to protect the general public against the spread of the disease. We will however keep the legal position under review.

Sick Pay

Mr. Kirkwood asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) whether he will institute a search of casepapers of supplementary benefit claimants in receipt of statutory sick pay back to April 1983, following the decision of the Social Security Commissioners case CSB 402/84;

(2) *(a)* what are the numbers of supplementary benefit claimants likely to be affected by the decision in the Social Security Commissioner's case CSB 402/84, *(b)* what are the estimated annual costs of applying the Commissioner's decision and *(c)* when he anticipates that the relevant paragraphs of the 'S' manual will be altered to take account of the decision.

Mr. Newton [*pursuant to his reply,* 15 March 1985, column *327*.]: I understand that the Chief Adjudication Officer is seeking legal advice on whether to apply for leave to appeal from the Commissioner's decision. The question of what administrative action would be appropriate in respect of earlier cases is therefore for later consideration. We have, however, today laid before Parliament the Supplementary Benefit (Resources) Amendment Regulations so as to put beyond any doubt the original policy intention at the earliest opportunity.

Insufficient information is available to enable meaningful estimates to be made of the costs of applying the Commissioner's decision and of the number of claimants who might be affected by it.

NATIONAL FINANCE

Budget (Unemployment)

2. **Mr. Parry** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the effect his Budget proposals will have on reducing unemployment.

12. **Mr. Boyes** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect of the Budget on the overall level of employment.

Mr. Lawson: I refer the hon. Members to the answers I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Leeds, Central (Mr. Fatchett).

45. **Mr. Freud** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of his Budget proposals he estimates will be of most benefit to the unemployed.

Mr. Peter Rees: The maintenance of a firm anti-inflation strategy, coupled with measures to promote better operation of markets is of most benefit to the outlook for unemployment. Progress in reducing unemployment will depend crucially on moderation in pay settlements.

56. **Mr. Nellist** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what will be the likely effect of the Budget on the level of unemployment.

Mr. Peter Rees: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend gave to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside (Mr. Parry) earlier today.

Wages and Employment

6. **Mr. Rogers** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has had concerning the Treasury paper on wages and employment.

Mr. Lawson: The Treasury paper, "Wages and Employment" has, rightly, attracted considerable attention.

Value Added Tax

17. **Mr. Tom Cox** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the number of representations he has received during the last 12 months from organisations expressing concern at the effect of value added tax on the amount charities are able to disburse to beneficiaries.

Mr. Moore: During the last 12 months my Treasury colleagues and I have received about 150 representations from individuals and organisations on this subject. My hon. Friend the Minister of State met a deputation from the Charities VAT Reform Group on 4 December.

40. **Mr. Foulkes** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proposals regarding value added tax are currently under discussion within the European Economic Community.

Mr. Hayhoe: The European Commission has admitted proposals for the following directives on value added tax to the Council of Ministers. In all cases, explanatory memoranda have been placed in the Library of the House:

> A seventh directive, proposing a common system of VAT for works of art, collectors' items, antiques and used goods. (explanatory memoranda of 30 January 1978 and 30 October 1979;
>
> A twelfth directive, on expenditure which is not eligible for deduction of VAT. (explanatory memoranda of 3 March 1983 and 4 April 1984);
>
> A thirteenth directive, on arrangements for the refund of VAT to taxable persons not established in Community territory. (explanatory memorandum of 7 October 1982);
>
> A fourteenth directive, on a system for deferred payment of the tax payable on importation by taxable persons. (explanatory memorandum of 15 September 1982);
>
> A sixteenth directive, proposing a common scheme for relieving importations by private persons of used goods which have already borne VAT in their member state of origin. (explanatory memorandum of 28 September 1982);
>
> A seventeenth directive, on exemption from VAT of temporary importations of goods. (explanatory memorandum of 24 October 1984);
>
> An eighteenth directive, on the abolition of certain derogations provided for in article 28(3) of the sixth VAT Directive. (explanatory memorandum of 23 February 1985); and a nineteenth directive, to clarify certain ambiguities in the sixth VAT Directive. (explanatory memorandum of 23 February 1985). The eighteenth and nineteenth directives have not yet been discussed in the Council of Ministers.

A proposed twentieth directive is also under discussion, and was the subject of an explanatory memorandum of 23 August 1984. This proposes that the machinery of VAT administration should be used by the West German authorities as a channel for the payment of a special aid to their small farmers. However this is not, properly speaking, a VAT proposal.

47. **Mr. Phillip Oppenheim** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is satisfied with the European Commission's proposals for uniform value added tax rates throughout the Community.

Mr. Hayhoe: The European Commission has yet to make formal proposals to the Council of Ministers for common VAT rates in the Community.

59. **Mr. David Atkinson** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations he has received on raising the threshold of value added tax.

Mr. Hayhoe: About 40 such representations have been received since the last Budget.

Mr. Paul Volcker

18. **Mr. Beaumont-Dark** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he has any plans to meet Paul Volcker, chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Bank, to discuss international financial matters.

Mr. Ian Stewart: Finance Ministers and Central Bank governors next meet at the IMF Interim and Development Committee meetings on 17-19 April.

Family Income

19. **Mr. Fisher** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what would be the increase per week in net income for a one-earner, two-child family of spending the same sum on *(a)* a 1p cut in the standard rate of tax, *(b)* increasing personal allowances and *(c)* increasing child benefit.

Mr. Moore: For a one-earner, two-child family on average earnings, the percentage increases in net income would be as follows *(a)* 0·9 per cent., *(b)* 0·7 per cent. and *(c)* 2·4 per cent.

Inflation

20. **Mr. Andrew MacKay** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the current level of inflation.

Mr. Lawson: Over the 12 months to January 1985, the retail prices index increased by 5 per cent.

35. **Mr. McNamara** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the consequences for inflation of the recent fall in the exchange rate and rise in interest rates.

Mr. Ian Stewart: There may well be a temporary upward movement in inflation, resulting from many factors, including the exchange rate, but the Government's financial policies should ensure a swift resumption in the downward trend.

44. **Mr. Frank Cook** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect of the Budget on inflation.

Mr. Peter Rees: We estimate that the direct effect of the Budget measures on the retail prices index will increase it by ½ per cent. But downward pressure on inflation will be maintained through the medium-term financial strategy.

Infrastructure

21. **Mr. Hayes** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is satisfied with the level of both private and public investment in the infrastructure; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Peter Rees: As I told my hon. Friend in answer to a similar question on 24 January, total capital investment in this country is already running at a record level. The recently published public expenditure White Paper (Cmnd. 9428), shows that the public sector is spending substantial sums on the nation's infrastructure.

Business Investment

22. **Mrs. Roe** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received regarding the trend in business investment.

Mr. Peter Rees: Surveys by the CBI and the Department of Trade and Industry indicate that 1984's all-time high for business investment of £20·7 billion in current prices is likely to be comfortably exceeded this year.

National Insurance and Income Tax

23. **Mr. Chapman** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the proportion of his gross wage a single man earning £80 per week will pay in national insurance contributions and income tax, as a result of his Budget proposals.

Mr. Moore: 21·1 per cent., assuming that he is contracted in to the state earnings-related pension scheme; 19·9 per cent. if he is contracted out. Before the Budget, the percentages paid were 3·4 per cent. higher at 24·5 per cent. and 23·3 per cent. respectively.

Houseboats

24. **Mr. Jessel** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer in what circumstances houseboats, whether moving or stationary, are treated by his Department as houses rather than boats in respect of *(a)* value added tax, *(b)* tax relief on interest on loans for purchase and *(c)* capital gains tax.

Mr. Moore: A houseboat is zero-rated for value added tax provided that it is designed or adapted for use solely as a place of permanent habitation and it has neither the means of self-propulsion nor is capable of being readily adapted for that purpose. If these conditions are not met or if it is used or held out as holiday accommodation, it is standard-rated.

For mortgage interest relief purposes a houseboat, whether moving or stationary, is treated like any other property provided it is designed or adapted for use as a place of permanent habitation.

For capital gains tax a houseboat will normally be an exempt assset, but if this is not the case, it may, exceptionally, qualify as a dwellinghouse.

Pound Sterling

25. **Mr. Hamilton** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received regarding the strength of the pound sterling as against the United States dollar.

Mr. Ian Stewart: My right hon. Friend has received several communications regarding the sterling exchange rate against the dollar.

30. **Mr. Janner** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to protect the value of the pound against the United States dollar.

Mr. Ian Stewart: The Government do not target the dollar's exchange rate against sterling. But we, together with our G5 partners, expressed in Washington on 17 January our commitment to work towards greater exchange market stability through prudent financial policies, supply side improvements and, as necessary, intervention in the foreign exchange markets.

Workplace Nurseries

26. **Mr. Cohen** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has had advocating fiscal policies to encourage the provision of workplace nurseries.

Mr. Moore: A total of 28 letters and representations have been received on this subject since 1 January 1985.

Exchange Rate

27. **Mr. Randall** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of his Budget proposals on the exchange rate.

Mr. Ian Stewart: The Government's continuing commitment to defeating inflation and improving the supply performance of the economy will help maintain confidence in sterling.

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the change in the real exchange rate of the pound since the last quarter of 1976 to the latest available date against the deutschmark, French franc, United States dollar, yen and guilder.

Mr. Ian Stewart: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Tax Bill

28. **Mr. Ron Lewis** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the total tax bill in 1985-86 is expected to be lower or higher than in 1984-85.

Mr. Moore: North sea tax receipts, and onshore corporation tax (reflecting the strong growth in profits in 1983 and 1984), are expected to rise sharply between the two years. Largely as a result, total taxes and national insurance contributions, including local authority rates, are forecast higher in real terms in 1985-86 than in 1984-85.

Petrol (Duty)

29. **Mr. Penhaligon** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received regarding the duty on the price of a gallon of four star petrol.

Mr. Hayhoe: Very few.

Interest Rates

21. **Mr. Hirst** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the current level of interest rates.

Mr. Ian Stewart: I am confident that interest rates are currently sufficient to secure sound monetary conditions and to provide continued downward pressure on inflation. Interest rates will continue to be at whatever level is necessary for that purpose.

34. **Mr. Barron** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of his Budget proposals on the level of interest rates.

57. **Mr. Thurnham** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the effect of his Budget on interest rates.

Mr. Ian Stewart: As my right hon. Friend made clear in his Budget speech, short-term interest rates will be held at the level needed to maintain monetary conditions that will continue to bring down inflation.

Occupational Pension Funds

32. **Mr. Amess** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations he has received from *(a)* managers of occupational pension funds and *(b)* members of occupational pension funds concerning the taxation of such funds.

Mr. Moore: We have received some 12,000 letters concerning possible changes in the present taxation treatment of pension provision, including the taxation of pension funds. The vast majority have been from members of occupational pension funds. Identifying letters from individual fund managers (even if they have made themselves known as such) could be undertaken only at disproportionate time and cost.

Government Borrowing

33. **Mr. Patrick Thompson** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the amount by which Government borrowing has been reduced since April 1979.

Mr. Peter Rees: The amount of net annual public sector borrowing has fallen from 5·4 per cent. of GDP in 1978-79 to about 3¼ per cent. in each of the past four years, and is estimated to fall to 2 per cent. in 1985-86.

Debt Rescheduling

36. **Mr. Skinner** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with other Finance Ministers regarding current debt rescheduling operations in Central and South American countries and elsewhere; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Ian Stewart: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer regularly meet his foreign counterparts and debt rescheduling is often one of the topics discussed.

Average Industrial Wage (Income Tax)

37. **Mr. Corbyn** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of a worker's salary on an average industrial wage, was paid in income tax at the standard rate in May 1979, June 1983 and at March 1984.

Mr. Moore: Information is in the table. It is assumed that no tax reliefs or allowances other than the personal allowance are available.

Percentage of average manual earnings paid in income tax at:*

	Reduced rate	*Basic rate*	*Total*	*Reduced rate*	*Basic rate*	*Total*
	Single			*Married*		
1978-79	4·2	20·2	24·4	4·2	16·1	20·3
1979-80	3·5	19·1	22·6	3·5	15·4	18·9
1983-84	—	23·1	23·1	—	19·2	19·2
1984-85	—	22·8	22·8	—	18·6	18·6

* Financial year averages for male, full-time manual workers aged over 21.

Trident

38. **Mr. Tony Lloyd** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the cost of capital expenditure on Trident carried out in the United States is included in his estimate of capital expenditure contained in table 2.9 of the 1985 public expenditure White Paper.

Mr. Peter Rees: Table 2.9 of the 1985 public expenditure White Paper includes defence expenditure of a capital nature. This is based on an agreed NATO definition of spending on major capital procurement and construction works and as such it will include the capital costs of the Trident project. The majority of the work on Trident project will be carried out in the United Kingdom and Trident work is only a small component of the figures in table 2.9.

EC (Budget Rebate)

39. **Mr. Teddy Taylor** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is satisfied with the effectiveness of the arrangements to ensure that the United Kingdom will receive its £600 million rebate from the EC in the current year; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Ian Stewart: The Fontainebleau summit agreed that the money should be paid to the United Kingdom in 1985 and the Council has unanimously reaffirmed that commitment since. The exact method of financing is still under discussion.

Economic Activity

41. **Mr. Knox** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received regarding further signs of an increase in economic activity.

Mr. Peter Rees: There have been many pointers to continuing increases in economic activity. GDP (output measure) grew by 1 per cent. beween the third and fourth quarters of 1984 and the volume of non-oil exports grew by 3½ per cent. in the three months to January on the previous three months. The latest CBI trends inquiry suggests continuing growth in manufacturing output. The DTI investment intentions survey suggests that business investment will grow substantially in 1985 comfortably to exceed 1984's record level.

Schedule D

42. **Mr. Stern** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is satisfied with the efficiency and speed of liaison between Her Majesty's inspectors and collectors of taxes in relation to tax due on assessments under schedule D.

Mr. Moore: The efforts that have been made to overcome liaison problems between inspectors and collectors of taxes have improved the efficiency and speed of operation of the present computerised collection system for schedule D tax. But some difficulties remain because the system is limited by its dependence on paper transmission between the two offices. To combat the problems we announced plans in 1984 to link tax districts direct to accounts offices by an on-line computer system: CODA. Work on CODA is well under way and a phased introduction is planned for the system beginning in 1987. In the short term the Inland Revenue is planning to introduce changes to the present computer system, which should improve the service to taxpayers.

Public Sector Borrowing Requirement

43. **Mr. Alton** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his intended public sector borrowing requirement for 1985-86 represents as a proportion of gross national product.

Mr. Peter Rees: 2 per cent. of GDP.

51. **Mr. Eggar** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received about the level of the public sector borrowing requirement in the forthcoming year.

Mr. Peter Rees: Several Budget representations contained views about the 1985-86 public sector borrowing requirement.

54. **Mr. Bidwell** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement about the public sector borrowing requirement outturn for 1984-85.

Mr. Peter Rees: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my right hon. Friend the Chancellor's Budget statement.

Exports

46. **Mr. Nicholls** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the economic recovery is affecting the levels of United Kingdom exports.

Mr. Peter Rees: The buoyancy of world trade in 1984 has been fully reflected in the growth of United Kingdom exports. The volume of world trade in manufactures is estimated to have grown by 10 per cent., and United Kingdom exports of manufactures, excluding the erratic items which tend to distort the underlying trend, grew by 11 per cent.

Economic Recovery

48. **Mr. Michael Brown** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the likely duration of the current recovery.

Mr. Peter Rees: The Budget forecast suggests continuation of a healthy rate of growth at least into 1986. On the basis of the forecast, economic growth will have averaged 2½ per cent. a year in the five years since the first half of 1981.

Johnson Matthey Bankers

49. **Mr. Gareth Wardell** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the report of the Bank of England committee into the lesson of Johnson Matthey Bankers collapse will be published.

Mr. Ian Stewart: The review is in progress. My right hon. Friend will report to the House when it is completed.

58. **Mr. Wareing** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give an up-to-date estimate of the loss to the Exchequer from the Bank of England's rescue of Johnson Matthey Bankers.

Mr. Ian Stewart: Any costs of the operaton will be met by the banking department of the Bank of England. There is no direct cost to the Exchequer.

Economic Growth

50. **Mr. Fallon** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his best estimate of the prospect for economic growth in the coming year.

Mr. Peter Rees: The Government's forecast published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report is for growth of 3½ per cent. in 1985.

Public Expenditure White Paper

52. **Mr. Sean Hughes** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he has estimated the number of jobs that will be lost as a result of the 1985 White Paper on public expenditure.

Mr. Peter Rees: The Government's public expenditure plans are an integral part of their policies to encourage a vigorous and enterprising economy, creating conditions for continuing and sustainable growth in employment.

Coal Industry Dispute

53. **Mrs. Clwyd** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement about the cost of the coal strike.

Mr. Peter Rees: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Chancellor's Budget statement on Tuesday 19 March 1985.

Productivity

55. **Mr. Richard Shepherd** asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received about the growth of productivity in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Peter Rees: References to productivity have been made from time to time in correspondence. Manufacturing Productivity has grown on average by 6½ per cent. per annum in the past four years. Whole economy productivity rose 3 per cent. per annum between 1980 and 1983.

Taxation

Mr. Cohen asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total saving of tax to *(a)* the wealthiest 5 per cent. and *(b)* the wealthiest 10 per cent. of the population in terms of (i) income and (ii) capital as a result of reductions made in income and capital taxes since 1979.

Mr. Moore: The following estimates have been calculated on the same basis as the reply which I gave to the hon. Member for Workington (Mr. Campbell-Savours) on 14 February 1985, column *292*. £2·6 billion of the income tax reductions are in respect of the 10 per cent. of taxpayers with the highest incomes. Of this, £2·1 billion is in respect of the top 5 per cent.

Virtually the whole of the reduction of £350 million in capital transfer tax accrues to the wealthiest 10 per cent. in terms of capital and all except about 1 per cent. of it to the wealthiest 5 per cent.

I regret that it is not possible to analyse the reductions of income tax on the basis of the distribution of wealth, of capital transfer tax on the basis of the income distribution, or the reduction of capital gains tax on either basis.

Mr. Kaufman asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate, for the last financial year, receipts of income tax, corporation tax and value added tax derived from Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire.

Mr. Moore: For counties, the available information on income tax is on amounts due rather than receipts.

Estimates for 1982-83 (the latest available) of that due from people resident in each of the five counties are as follows:

Amount of Income Tax

Area	*£ million*
Cumbria	267
Lancashire	903
Merseyside	768
Greater Manchester	890
Cheshire	711

Source: The Survey of Personal Incomes 1982-83

I regret that estimates of corporation tax and value added tax are not available.

Capital Investment

Mr. Freeman asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the principles set down by the Treasury for the approval of public sector capital investment projects which propose to include some private sector capital.

Mr. Peter Rees: The criteria, devised in 1981, under which private finance might be introduced into public sector projects have recently been reviewed. The Government believe these criteria should continue to provide the basis for considering whether or not private finance might be appropriate on the facts of any particular case.

Holiday Flatlets (Tax Assessment)

Mr. David Atkinson asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce legislation to amend the Finance Act 1984 in such a way that, for the purposes of the assessment of tax of rent income, conference delegates are treated as holidaymakers when staying in holiday flatlets.

Mr. Moore: I have no plans to do so.

Mortgage Interest

Mr. Gregory asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the cost of extending mortgage interest tax relief of *(a)* £35,000 and *(b)* £40,000 under (i) the present tax arrangements and (ii) if the relief was limited to standard rate of income tax.

Mr. Moore: I shall let my hon. Friend have a reply as soon as possible.

Income Tax and National Insurance

Mr. Sean Hughes asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will construct an index, with 1978-79 equalling 100, of the changes in the level of income tax and national insurance contributions for each subsequent year for a taxpayer on *(a)* two thirds, *(b)* average, *(c)* five times average and *(d)* 10 times average earnings for households where the taxpayer is (i) single, (ii) married, (iii) married with two children and (iv) married with four children, and in all cases assuming that the wife does not work, in the manner of the answer of 23 November 1983, *Official Report,* columns 171-2.

Mr. Moore: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Business Expansion Scheme

Dr. McDonald asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will provide an estimate of the number of new jobs created by the business expansion scheme since its inception; and what is the cost of each new job created in this way.

Mr. Moore: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Budget Statement

Mr. Canavan asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations he has so far received in response to his Budget statement.

Mr. Lawson: None, so far.

Expenditure Plans

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a table comparable to chart 1.5 of Cmnd. 9428 showing percentage change in programmes between 1978-79 and 1987-88 but separating out the programmes for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Mr. Peter Rees: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer by how much the public expenditure planning total has risen or is planned to rise *(a)* as a whole, *(b)* in Scotland and *(c)* in the defence programme from 1978-79 to 1987-88.

Mr. Peter Rees: I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

SCOTLAND

Cunninghame District Council

Mr. Corrie asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the increase in income from the rate poundage set by Cunninghame district council for 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86.

Mr. Younger: The information is as follows:

	£ million
1983-84	0·438
1984-85	−0·457
1985-86	1·178

Note:

For the purposes of this question the income from the rate poundage in each year from 1982-83 is the amount produced by multiplying the authority's rate poundage and the product of a penny rate for each year as most recently notified by the authority to the Scottish Office.

Mr. Corrie asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the average council house rent of one, two, three and four apartment houses in Cunninghame district council; and how these figures compare with those for the other district councils in Scotland.

Mr. Younger: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Average annual local authority rents 30 September 1984

Number of apartments	Cunninghame £	Scotland £
1 or 2	436·12	460·44
3	454·55	532·89
4	471·54	600·13
5 or more	490·28	645·41
All dwellings	460·05	543·94

Rate Poundage (Strathclyde)

Mr. Corrie asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the increase in income from the rate poundage set by Strathclyde region for 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86.

Mr. Younger: The information is as follows:

	£ million
1983-84	1·592
1984-85	28·533
1985-86	64·582

Note:

For the purposes of this question the income from the rate poundage in each year from 1982-83 is the amount produced by multiplying the authority's rate poundage and the product of a penny rate for each year as most recently notified by the authority to the Scottish Office.

Farmed Deer

Mr. Corbett asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what, in each of the last five years, was the number of farmed deer slaughtered *(a)* on farm and *(b)* in abattoirs in Scotland.

Mr. John MacKay: Information about the number of farmed deer slaughtered on farm is not collected by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland. A limited trial of abbattoir slaughter of farmed deer has been taking place since 1982 in one abattoir in Scotland, in the course of which some 380 deer have been slaughtered.

Anti-Poverty Programme

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Scotland why Scotland is now being excluded from the European anti-poverty programme.

Mr. Ancram: Given the limited size of the second European Commission anti-poverty programme, the likely share of EC resources available for projects in Scotland would have been extremely small. In these circumstances, because of the need to balance the United Kingdom's contribution to EC expenditure with other public expenditure within planned totals, and because no additional public expenditure resources could be made available to meet the required local contribution, there would have been little or no likelihood of projects being successful except at the expense of other priorities or programmes. Therefore, and after very careful consideration, my right hon. Friend and I concluded that the balance of advantage on this occasion lay in non-participation and in concentrating our available public expenditure resources upon existing identified priorities.

Many projects that might have been considered under the anti-poverty programme are of course likely to qualify for existing forms of support. In particular suitable projects can benefit from the 75 per cent. funding available through the urban programme for voluntary sector and local authority projects of direct benefit to deprived urban areas.

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how much money Scotland has received from the earlier EC anti-poverty programme; and if he will list the projects which benefited.

Mr. Ancram: The total amount paid from the first EC anti-poverty programme in respect of projects in Scotland was £654,174.

The projects supported were as follows:

1. Craigmillar Festival Society, Edinburgh.
2. Social and Community Development Project, Edinburgh.
3. Govan Area Resource Centre, Glasgow.

Mr. Strang asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what is the procedure for making bids from Scotland to the EC under its anti-poverty programme.

Mr. Ancram: Applications for financial assistance under the second EC programme to combat poverty have to be forwarded to the European Commission with the approval of member state Governments. As, however, the hon. Member is aware, it has been decided that the balance of advantage on this occasion does not favour Scotland's participation in the programme.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) if he will make a statement on his refusal to accept aid from the European anti-poverty programme;

(2) why he considers the second European Community programme to combat poverty not good value for money for Scotland, as he has written in a letter to the chief executive of Strathclyde;

(3) if he will list his reasons for writing to the chief executive of Strathclyde region rejecting the second European Community programme to combat poverty for Scotland and saying that the money directly from the EC would not be additional money.

Mr. Ancram: I refer the hon. Member to the replies I have given today to the hon. Member for Edinburgh, East (Mr. Strang).

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will reconsider his decision to exclude Scotland from the second European Community programme to combat poverty.

Mr. Ancram: I see no reason to do so.

Commercial Ratepayers

Mr. Bruce asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what representations he has received from commercial ratepayers facing increases in rates of more than 50 per cent. following revaluation.

Mr. Ancram: Though representative bodies have made general representations, I have not received any direct written representations from commerical ratepayers who have made it clear that they are in this position.

Mr. Bruce asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he will consider introducing assistance to commercial ratepayers faced with increases in excess of 50 per cent. as a result of revaluation.

Mr. Ancram: No. There is no power under which such assistance by way of additional grant could be provided.

if any ratepayer believes his valuation to be excessive he has the opportunity to appeal against it and have that appeal considered by an independent valuation appeal committee. If a revaluation appeal is upheld the amended valuation would be effective from 1 April 1985.

Over 75-year-olds

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate on the basis of table 15.10.3 of "Public Expenditure to 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scotland Programme", and adjusted for inflation, how much extra funds are required by 1988 to meet the health service needs of the additional numbers of over 75-year-olds in the population.

Mr. John MacKay: I estimate that the additional cost of providing health care services for the increasing number of those over 75 years old in the population in the three years 1985-86 to 1987-88 will be about £24 million, of which about £22 million will fall on the hospitals and community health services programme.

Assisted Scheme Awards

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been paid out in *(a)* state assisted awards and *(b)* grants to private schools in each year since 1979; and what he estimates the cost of the state assisted scheme will be in each year from 1985-86 to 1987-88.

Mr. Allan Stewart: The information is as follows:

Fiscal Years

£ million

	1979-80	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	**1984-85*
Grants to grant-aided secondary schools	1·821	3·221	2·759	2·491	2·002	0·956
Grants to grant-aided special schools	2·326	2·944	3·147	3·370	3·390	3·330
Assisted places grants†	—	—	0·512	1·393	2·283	3·186

* Provisional.

† Including aided places at St. Mary's music school, Edinburgh.

Provision for assisted (and aided) places grants in 1985-86 is £3·863 million. Estimates for later years are not available.

Further Education

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* full-time students and *(b)* full-time equivalent students attended (i) Scottish universities and (ii) colleges, further education colleges and central institutions in 1979 and 1984; and what is his estimate for the numbers in each category in 1988.

Mr. Allan Stewart: The information requested is given in the table. Projections of students in Scottish universities are not available for 1987-88.

Full-time and full-time equivalent students in tertiary education in Scotland

	1978-79	*1983-84*	*1987-88*
Universities			
Full-time	43,000	44,800	n/a
Full-time equivalents	44,300	46,500	n/a
*Central Institutions**			
Full-time	10,800	14,300	24,500
Full-time equivalents	11,100	15,900	26,800
Colleges of Education			
Full-time	7,600	5,500	6,100
Full-time equivalents	9,000	7,100	7,500
Education Authority Colleges†			
Full-time	26,700	38,900	30,300
Full-time equivalents	65,700	75,700	65,800

* Includes DAFS central institutions for all years and Napier college and Glasgow college of technology in 1987-88.

† Includes Napier college and Glasgow college of technology in 1978-79 and 1983-84

Public Expenditure

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will update table 15.10.9 of "Public Expenditure to 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scotland Programme", for the numbers of home helps, staff in day centres and in local authority residential centres for 1984.

Mr. John MacKay : The information requested is not yet available.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will update table 15.10.8 of "Public Expenditure to 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scotland Programme" for the number of places available in day nurseries, pre-school playgroups and day care centres, lunch clubs and meals on wheels for the elderly in 1984.

Mr. John MacKay: The following is the available information:

	Numbers
Places in day nurseries at 31 March 1984	3,983
Meals served in lunch clubs in year to 31 March 1984	1,972,000
Meals on Wheels served in year to 31 March 1984	1,826,000

All figures are provisional

Information on pre-school playgroups and day centres for the elderly for 1984 is not yet available.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will update table 15.10.5 of "Public Expenditure to 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scotland Programme" for the numbers of available beds in geriatric and acute hospitals and beds for the treatment of the mentally ill and mentally handicapped in 1984.

Mr. John MacKay: I regret that this information is not yet available nationally.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) if he will publish a table, otherwise identical to page 51 of "Public Expenditure in 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scottish Programme", but expressed in *(a)* cost terms and *(b)* volume terms and showing percentage changes over 1978-79;

(2) if he will publish a table, otherwise identical to page 51 of "Public Expenditure in 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scottish Programme", but expressed in *(a)* cost terms and *(b)* volume terms.

Mr. Younger: I shall reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish a table, othewise identical to "Additional Analysis 5 of Public Expenditure in 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scottish Programme", but expressed in volume terms.

Mr. Younger: No. Comprehensive records are no longer kept of public expenditure in volume terms.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will indicate how much the inter-year comparisons of table 1 of "Public Expenditure to 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scottish Programme" are distorted by changes in functional and administrative arrangements, such as housing benefit, regional development grants and national insurance surcharge; and whether adjustments can be made to make the figures directly comparable.

Mr. Younger: The only such change which makes direct year-on-year compound comparisons difficult is the transfer of responsibility for regional development grants in Scotland to me from the Department of Trade and Industry. Including regional development grants for all years, past and planned expenditure on industry, energy, trade and employment within the Scotland programme, and on total expenditure within my responsibility would be as in the table.

£ million

	1979-80	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
Industry, Energy, Trade and Employment	171	234	268	445	303	291	275	310	240
Total expenditure within the Secretary of State's responsibility	4,723	5,473	5,985	6,528	6,847	7,215	7,158	7,330	7,310

Mr. Dewar asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what he estimates the central Government subsidy per local authority dwelling will be in 1985-86 calculated on the basis used in table 15.5.11 in "Public Expenditure to 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scotland Programme."

Mr. Younger: £57.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish a table, otherwise identical to the *(a)* health subsection and *(b)* social work subsection table on page 101 of "Public Expenditure in 1987-88: A Commentary on the Scottish Programme," but expressed in (i) cost terms and (ii) volume terms, and showing percentage changes over 1978-79.

Mr. John MacKay: Detailed records of past and planned expenditure by programme are no longer maintained in volume terms. The information requested about expenditure in cost terms is as follows, using GDP deflator factors consistent with those used for the analysis set out on page 131 of the 1985 Scottish Commentary. In the time available it has not been possible to provide figures in the detail shown in table 15.10.1 of the Commentary.

(1983-84 Base Year) £ million

	1979-80	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
1. Health	1,505	1,601	1,661	1,685	1,720	1,777	1,790	1,808	1,823
Per cent.	(1.8)	(8·3)	(12·4)	(14·0)	(16·4)	(20·2)	(21·1)	(22·3)	(23·3)
comprising:									
(a) Hospital and Community Health Services and Centrally Financed Services	1,239	1,323	1,375	1,378	1,404	1,441	1,455	1,465	1,474
Per cent.	(2·3)	(9·2)	(13·5)	(13·8)	(15·9)	(19·0)	(20·1)	(21·0)	(21·7)
(b) Family Practitioner Services	266	278	286	307	316	336	335	343	349
Per cent.	(−0·4)	(4·1)	(7·1)	(15·0)	(18·4)	(25·8)	(25·5)	(28·4)	(30·7)
2. Social Work	286	293	305	311	316	320	318	322	320
Per cent.	(14·4)	(17·2)	(22·0)	(24·4)	(26·4)	(28·0)	(27·2)	(28·8)	(28·0)

Note:

The percentage figures given above show the cumulative percentage increase over 1978-79 expenditure figures expressed in 1983-84 cost terms.

Health Visitors and Home Nurses

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* health visitors and *(b)* home nurses were employed in the Scottish health service in each year since 1979.

Mr. John MacKay: The numbers of health visitors and home nurses—now known as district nurses—(whole-time equivalent) employed in the Scottish Health Service each year since 1979 are as follows:

	Health visitors	District nurses
1979	1,266·9	1,610·8
1980	1,344·1	1,724·1
1981	1,359·8	1,732·4
1982	1,368·8	1,789·8
1983	1,329·0	1,862·4
1984	1,255·1	1,880·9

Local Authority Expenditure

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish a table showing for local authority current expenditure for each of the years 1978-79 to 1987-88 expenditure both as an amount and as a percentage change over 1978-79 expressed in *(a)* cash, *(b)* volume and *(c)* cost terms.

Mr. Younger: I shall reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish a table showing for local authority capital expenditure for each of the years 1978-79 to 1987-88 expenditure, both as an amount and as a percentage change over 1978-79 expressed in *(a)* cash, *(b)* volume and *(c)* cost terms.

Mr. Ancram: The information available is set out in the table. The information needed to construct volume figures is no longer available because Government planning is in cash terms.

£ million

	Cash	Per cent. change over 1978-79	Cost	Per cent. change over 1978-79
1978-79	533	—	905	—
1979-80	622	+17	904	0
1980-81	612	+15	750	−17
1981-82	618	+16	688	−24
1982-83	617	+16	644	−29
1983-84	739	+39	739	−18
1984-85	702	+32	671	−26
1985-86	675	+27	617	−32
1986-87	720	+35	630	−30
1987-88	770	+45	650	−28

Notes:

1. The figures are taken from the commentary on the Scotland programme to the public expenditure White paper (Cmnd. 9428). Those for 1978-79 to 1983-84 are actual expenditure, those for 1984-85 are estimated outturn and those for 1985-86 to 1987-88 are the Government's planned public expenditure provision. Figures for 1986-87 and 1987-88 are rounded to the nearest £10 million and are subject to review in the next public expenditure survey.

2. The figures in cost terms are adjusted to 1983-84 prices, using the GDP deflator.

Government Expenditure

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish in a table, otherwise identical to table 3.15.2 of Cmnd. 9428-II, but expressed in *(a)* cost terms and *(b)* volume terms.

Mr. Younger: Since public expenditure is now planned in cash, volume figures are no longer relevant and the information needed to construct them is no longer collected comprehensively. The information requested in cost terms is set out in the following table. For information on volume terms movements in local authority current expenditure as a whole, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply of today's date to his question by my hon. Friend the Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment.

Local authority expenditure in Scotland in cost terms (1983-84 base year)

£ million

	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Current Expenditure							
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	4	5	3	3	3	6	5
Industry, Energy, Trade and Employment	12	13	14	15	15	16	14
Tourism	4	4	4	4	4	3	2
Transport	231	243	245	246	245	236	221
Housing	107	102	120	131	125	106	89
Other Environmental Services	327	340	340	340	340	357	333
Law, Order and Protective Services	268	272	291	301	311	313	312
Education	1,338	1,387	1,421	1,424	1,445	1,426	1,290
Arts and Libraries	36	37	45	45	47	48	43
Health and Social Work	261	267	280	286	291	292	291
Nationalised Industries	28	44	35	36	30	37	35
Housing Benefit	55	51	72	107	224	234	227
Unallocated	—	—	—	—	—	—	74
Total current expenditure	2,669	2,765	2,871	2,937	3,080	3,075	2,937
Capital Expenditure							
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	2	3	2	3	2	2	1
Industry, Energy, Trade and Employment	0	0	1	1	3	3	1
Tourism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transport	166	127	141	137	138	148	149
Housing	384	320	264	246	343	282	238
Other Environmental Services	207	172	150	145	145	136	127
Law, Order and Protective Services	15	16	13	11	15	19	18

	1979-80	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*
Education	102	85	90	78	73	61	63
Arts and Libraries	10	12	12	9	5	2	3
Health and Social Work	16	14	14	14	16	17	17
Total capital expenditure	904	750	688	644	739	671	617
Total local authority expenditure in Scotland	3,573	3,515	3,559	3,582	3,819	3,745	3,553

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish a table, otherwise identical to table 3.15.1 of Cmnd. 9428-II, but expressed in *(a)* cost terms and *(b)* volume terms.

Mr. Younger: Since public expenditure is now planned in cash, volume figures are no longer relevant and the information needed to construct them is no longer collected comprehensively. The information requested in cost terms is set out in the following table.

Scotland Analysis by Broad Economic Category in Cost Terms (1983-84 Base Year)

						£ million	
	1979-80	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*
Pay	2,746	2,893	2,864	2,823	2,861	2,873	2,725
Other current expenditure on goods and services	1,238	1,285	1,437	1,518	1,585	1,615	1,606
Subsidies and current grants	1,008	1,027	902	819	770	764	719
Local authority current expenditure not allocated to services							74
Total current expenditure	4,992	5,205	5,203	5,161	5,215	5,252	5,124
Gross domestic fixed capital formation	1,153	974	909	865	825	812	805
Capital grants, loans etc.	439	448	483	490	497	370	695
Market and overseas borrowing by nationalised industries and some other public corporations	29	−61	−90	1	167	386	−84
Total capital expenditure	1,621	1,360	1,303	1,356	1,489	1,569	1,415
Total programme	6,613	6,565	6,506	6,517	6,704	6,821	6,540

Departmental Programmes

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will indicate the programmes or sub-programmes within his responsibility for which volume comparisons between 1984-85 to 1987-88 with 1978-79, or the nearest base year, are available and publish such comparisons in the *Official Report*.

Mr. Younger: None.

Service Sector Employment

Mr. Dewar asked the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) if he will list the number of people employed in the service sector in each of the last 10 years in Scotland, giving the change in each year as a percentage of the total employed in that sector;

(2) if he will list the number of people employed in the manufacturing industry in the last seven years in Scotland, giving the change in each year as a percentage of the total employed in that sector.

Mr. Younger: The estimated numbers of employees in employment in each of these sectors, as defined on the 1980 standard industrial classification, and the percentage changes from each previous year, are as follows:

	Manufacturing		*Services*	
	Number in thousands	*Percentage change*	*Number in thousands*	*Percentage change*
1975	—	—	1,156	+2·7
1976	—	—	1,180	+2·0
1977	—	—	1,180	0·0
1978	609	−1·8	1,188	+0·7
1979	606	−0·6	1,222	+2·8
1980	511	−9·8	1,230	−1·0
1980	566	−6·6	1,242	+1·7
1982	478	−6·4	1,234	+0·3
1983	447	−6·5	1,231	−0·2
1984	437	−2·2	1,254	+1·9

Note:

The estimates for 1982, 1983 and 1984 are provisional.

Rents and Housing Benefit

Mr. Dewar asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will estimate on the basis of the rent increases announced for 1985-86 by Scottish local authorities *(a)* the average unrebated local authority rent in that year and *(b)* the percentage of council house tenants who will be in receipt of housing benefit.

Mr. Younger: Returns submitted to my Department by housing authorities suggest that the average standard unrebated council house rent in Scotland in 1985-86 will be approximately £600 per annum.

No estimates are available of the number of council house tenants who will qualify for housing benefit in 1985-86.

Regional Development Grant

Mr. Dewar asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what he expects his Department to pay out in regional development grant in 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88, respectively.

Mr. Younger: The expected outturn on regional development grant this year is £111·6 million, of which £70·6 million was paid from the Department of Trade and Industry Vote before I assumed responsibility for regional development grant in Scotland on 29 November 1984. The public expenditure survey provision for 1985-86 is £105 million. Estimates for 1986-87 and 1987-88 are subject to revision in the course of the annual public expenditure survey.

Rural Aid Fund

Mr. Craigen asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he has now received proposals from the joint working party in Strathclyde proposing the establishment of a rural aid fund, along similar lines to the urban aid programme; and when he intends to meet representatives of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to follow up the proposed introduction of such a fund.

Mr. Allan Stewart: The proposals of the joint working party were submitted to my right hon. Friend on 1 March, and are being considered. We have had no approach on the matter from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

Trunk Road Construction

Mr. Henderson asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the major trunk road construction projects which have been started during 1984-85 and those which he expects to start in 1985-86.

Mr. Younger: The information is as follows:

Schemes with estimated cost over £1 million started since 1 April 1984

A1 —Musselburgh and Tranent Bypass, Stage II
M74 —Draffan to Millbank, Stage II
A75 —Creetown Bypass
A75 —Bridge of Dee Diversion*
A82 —Camus Nan Clais to Hollybank (Loch Lomand)*
A9 —Dalreoch to Burnside
(A92) —East Fife Regional Road, Stage II
A972 —Kingsway (Dundee), Stage III

Schemes with estimated cost over £1 million expected to start by 31 March 1986

A7 —Synton to Mossend
M74 —Draffan to Millbank, Stage III
A830 —Kinsadel to Mallaig, Stage I
A835 —Contin River Bridge
A9 —Alness Diversion
A929 —Kingsway to Powrie
A94 —Forfar Bypass

* Contract awarded March 1985: probable works start in April/1985

Cash Blocks

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has any changes to announce in the cash blocks SO/LA1 and SO/LA2 for 1984-85 which are within his responsibility.

Mr. Younger: Cash block SO/LA1 in 1984-85 is being reduced by £3·429 million. The limit for this block—which includes all Scottish local authority capital expenditure within my responsibility on services other than housing—was set at £391·117 million; the revised cash limit is now £387·688 million. This adjustment reflects the final outturn figure for the same block in 1983-84 which was overspent by £3·429 million or 0·9 per cent. of the revised SO/LA1 cash limit of £385·326 million for that year.

Cash block SO/LA2 is being reduced by £38·257 million. The limit for this cash block—which includes capital expenditure in Scotland on housing by local authorities, new towns, the Scottish Special Housing Association and on schemes financed by the Housing Corporation; and industrial and commercial investment by new towns—was set at £466·753 million for 1984-85. The revised cash limit is £428·496 million. This change comprises three separate reductions:

(i) £20·491 million under the housing expenditure limits arangement by which at the beginning of the year each local authority was set a limit for its contribution from its rate fund to its housing revenue account. Authorities were told that any excess above this limit would result in an equivalent reduction in their capital allocation. Regrettably 23 local authorities exceeded their limits and incurred consequent reductions in their capital allocations. The cash limit requires to be reduced accordingly by the aggregate excess.

(ii) £17·441 million in respect of an overspend on the cash block in 1983-84. An estimate of this overspend was taken into account in setting capital allocations for 1984-85 an no further adjustments to individual housing authorities' allocations are necessary.

(iii) £0·325 million to take account of supplementary provision required on the Class XV, 9 New Towns, Scotland Vote.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 22 March 1985

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

Afghan Aid

Mr. Bowen Wells asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government intend to give to the recently formed charitable trust Afghan Aid.

Mr. Raison: I propose to allocate a grant in aid of £50,000 to Afghan aid as relief for destitute Afghan refugees, wherever they might be, who have had to leave their homes because of the fighting in Afghanistan.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Temporary Visitors

Mr. Freeman asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for the last year of reported statistics, what number of visitors from the Asian sub-continent were admitted as temporary visitors, married British citizens during their temporary stay, and were then allowed to remain in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Waddington: Information is not available in the form requested. The available information is that about 340 husbands and 470 wives from the Indian sub-continent who had been admitted for a limited period other than as a husband or fiancé(e) were accepted for settlement in the United Kingdom in 1984; their admission may have been as visitors, students or in some other category given limited leave to enter; the figure for wives excludes those accepted for settlement on the removal of conditions applying to their husbands.

Arrests (Transport Costs)

Mr. Soley asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times in the past six months people who have been arrested have been flown at taxpayers' expense to another part of the United Kingdom; and what was the size of the resultant fine or sentence.

Mr. Giles Shaw: This information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Radios

Mr. Fry asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he has any plans to introduce a licence fee for radios generally.

Mr. Giles Shaw: No.

Equal Opportunities Commission

Mr. Alex Carlile asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria and procedures are applied in making appointments to the Equal Opportunities Commission, and at a senior level within the staffing structure of the commission; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Waddington: Members of the Equal Opportunities Commission are appointed by my right hon. and learned Friend in accordance with the terms of section 53 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. They are chosen for their personal qualities and for their general knowledge and experience of the areas covered by equal opportunity legislation. Under the terms of schedule 3 of the 1975 Act, the commission is responsible for appointing its own staff. I understand that, in accordance with a local agreement, the normal procedure is for all vacancies to be advertised internally before any consideration is given to a candidate from outside the commission; but some specialist appointments and the post of chief executive have been advertised simultaneously both inside and outside the commission.

Police and Fire Services (GREAs)

Mr. Fatchett asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if it is his intention to reduce in real terms the grant-related expenditure assessments of the West Yorkshire or any other metropolitan police and fire services over the three-year period of financial controls over the joint boards for these services, which will be established in the event of the abolition of the metropolitan counties and the Greater London council.

Mr. Giles Shaw: There is no intention to fix the grant-related expenditure assessments for police and fire joint boards other than in accordance with the general principles governing such assessments for all police and fire authorities.

Coal Industry Dispute

Mr. Tony Lloyd asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will give details of the amount of mutual aid sent by the Metropolitan police to other forces by month during the course of the miners' strike.

Mr. Giles Shaw [*pursuant to his reply*, 13 March 1985, c. 161]: The information requested is as follows:

Number of Metropolitan Police officers sent on mutual aid duties in connection with the miners' dispute in each month since March 1984.

	Number
March 1984	2,553
April	3,105
May	2,006
June	1,735
July	5,360
August	4,365
September	7,695
October	5,162
November	3,461
December	1,977
January 1985	1,419
February	1,846
March	47

The periods of duty involved ranged from one day to eight days.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Fishing Boats (EC Grants)

Mr. Beggs asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what checks are carried out by his Department in respect of eligibility for European Economic Community grants towards the purchase of new fishing boats as to *(a)* the authenticity of applicants and *(b)* the extent to which bona fide applicants meet the conditions of eligibility;

(2) if he will list the conditions governing the eligibility of owners of fishing boats in Northern Ireland for grants from the European Economic Community towards the cost of purchasing new fishing boats.

Dr. Boyson: Grant is available under regulation (EEC) No. 2908/83 which was published in the *Official Journal* of the European Communities on 22 October 1983; article 10 refers to conditions for owners. Applications are processed by the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland and any necessary inquiries are made by the sea fisheries inspectorate.

River Blackwater (Drainage Works)

Mr. Archer asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Department of Agriculture (Northern Ireland) drainage division's proposals to carry out drainage works on the River Blackwater, County Tyrone and County Armagh, have received approval; under what statutory authority the scheme is being carried out; what are the total estimated costs of the scheme; how much money the Government will contribute towards the costs of the scheme; what financial benefit they expect to accrue as a result of the investment of public money in this scheme; what area of land they estimate will benefit from the scheme by becoming available for agricultural production, or by being converted from its existing agricultural use to more intensive agricultural use; what are the results of any cost-benefit analysis carried out into this scheme; when he expects the scheme to be completed; and whether a full environmental assessment was made into the impact of the scheme upon wildlife and landscape.

Dr. Boyson: This scheme was approved in August 1982; it is being carried out under the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973. The total estimated cost is £19 million at 1984 prices and the net cost after deducting European Community grant and the Republic of Ireland's contribution is approximately £13 million. Benefits expected include more efficient production by farmers, alleviation of road flooding at 21 points and the provision of over 200 jobs during the construction period of five years; an estimated 3,200 hectares of agricultural land in Northern Ireland will benefit. Using 1984 costs the cost benefit assessment of the scheme produces an internal rate of return in excess of 5 per cent. The scheme is expected to be completed in 1989; an assessment of its environmental impact was made before works started.

"Developing Hospital Services"

Mr. Hume asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the total cost of commissioning and compiling the report "Developing Hospital Services", by the joint review team of the Eastern Health and Social Servies Board, taking into account wage costs for staff servicing the review team, the expenses of members of the team, clerical overheads in servicing the committee and all other expenses incurred by the review team in its work.

Mr. Chris Patten: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hume asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the total cost of printing, distributing and delivering the report, "Developing Hospital Services", by the joint review team of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board.

Mr. Chris Patten: Approximately £13,800.

Mr. Hume asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what was the total cost of preparing, printing, distributing and delivering the supplementary briefing document for the public on the report, "Developing Hospital Services," by the joint review team of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board.

Mr. Chris Patten: The total cost of printing and distributing the short guide to the report "Developing Hospital Services" was approximately £10,300. Information on the staff costs associated with the production of the guide is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Water Authorities

Mr. Colin Shepherd asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will set out in the *Official Report* a table showing the actual or estimated capital expenditure by each regional water authority on *(a)* urban flood protection, *(b)* agricultural flood protection and *(c)* sea defences for the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86.

Mrs. Fenner: Details of each water authority's planned expenditure on the three categories, described by the hon. member, are shown in the following table in the form submitted to the Ministry before the beginning of the relevant year. Limits on the level of expenditure that could attract grant aid were imposed for 1984-85 and 1985-86 after these plans had been drawn up. The actual levels of expenditure will therefore be less than these plans indicate and are likely to be in line with the grant earning ceiling shown for these years.

£ thousand

Planned expenditure	**Anglian*	*Northumbrian*	*North West*	*Severn Trent*	*Southern*	*South West*	**Thames*	*†Welsh*	*Wessex*	*Yorkshire*
1983-84										
Urban Flood Protection (including Flood Warning)	2,476	66	58	210	1,071	3,683	5,654	335	1,869	1,547
Agricultural Flood Protection and Arterial Drainage	6,332	256	2,490	2,929	737	—	479	406	630	1,299
Sea Defence	6,610	65	823	1,649	6,310	414	42	10	2,759	1,297
Actual Overall Expenditure as Reported by Authority	14,286	26	2,972	1,989	5,900	2,392	3,705	344	6,155	3,775
1984-85										
Urban Flood Prevention (including Flood Warning)	4,449	59	842	2,590	907	595	5,429	97	1,455	1,369
Agricultural Flood Protection and Arterial Drainage	7,002	312	1,483	3,742	727	275	612	370	1,092	769
Sea Defence	8,888	80	1,493	1,022	5,589	1,350	506	21	2,288	4,346
Grant Earning Ceiling	12,760	220	2,760	4,400	5,010	1,630	3,680	360	3,610	4,500
1985-86										
Urban Flood Prevention (including Flood Warning)	2,513	88	1,104	2,252	713	801	2,694	143	1,517	1,999
Agricultural Flood Protection and Arterial Drainage	5,604	197	911	2,192	136	263	635	140	801	1,214
Sea Defence	5,396	24	906	839	4,626	1,245	721	—	2,523	3,022
Grant Earning Ceiling	8,600	140	2,180	2,950	3,800	1,940	2,630	230	3,250	3,460

* Excludes Thames Tidal Defences.

† England only.

Mr. Colin Shepherd asked the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will set out in the *Official Report* a table showing the grant-earning ceilings and rates of grant payable under the Land Drainage Act 1976 for each regional water authority in the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86.

Mrs. Fenner: The information requested is set out in the table on the basis of water authority divisions. Grant earning ceilings are notified to authorities before the beginning of the year to which they relate. They may be adjusted during the year in the light of changing needs. Grant rates are based provisionally on grant earning ceilings, but after the end of the year are re-calculated on actual expenditure.

	1983-84		*1984-85*		*1985-86*	
	Grant Earning Ceiling £ thousand	*Grant Rates Per cent.*	*Grant Earning Ceiling £ thousand*	*Grant Rates Per cent. (Provisional)*	*Grant Earning Ceiling £ thousand*	*Grant Rates Per cent. (Provisional)*
Anglian						
Essex*	1,736	64	1,837	62	1,400	45
Great Ouse	2,155	67	1,633	60	1,300	44
Lincolnshire	4,713	80	5,002	75	3,100	62
Norfolk and Suffolk	3,082	73	2,144	63	1,100	44
Welland and Nene	2,834	73	2,144	66	1,700	52
Northumbrian	387	13	220	10	140	8
North West	3,306	36	2,760	31	2,180	21
Severn-Trent						
Severn†	1,460	35	1,235	30	700	21
Trent	4,596	34	3,165	26	2,250	18
Southern						
Hampshire	469	21	398	18	310	12
Isle of Wight	53	38	31	28	—	—
Kent*	4,508	69	3,342	62	2,420	44
Sussex	1,765	67	1,239	57	1,070	40
South West						
East	1,890	64	1,182	52	1,470	42
West	487	28	448	24	470	20
Thames						
Lea*	2,812	41	1891	30	1,080	15
Thames	3,122	39	1,789	29	1,550	19
Welsh						
Dee and Clwyd†	70	62	111	66	80	53
Wye†	293	72	249	66	150	56

	1983-84		*1984-85*		*1985-86*	
	Grant Earning Ceiling £ thousand	*Grant Rates Per cent.*	*Grant Earning Ceiling £ thousand*	*Grant Rates Per cent. (Provisional)*	*Grant Earning Ceiling £ thousand*	*Grant Rates Per cent. (Provisional)*
Wessex						
Avon and Dorset	674	32	456	25	536	20
Bristol Avon	1,015	39	573	29	589	23
Somerset	3,171	80	2,581	75	2,125	62
Yorkshire	3,981	34	4,500	31	3,460	22

* Excludes Thames Tidal Defences.

† Expenditure in England only.

DEFENCE

Community Service

Mr. Irving asked the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to creating some form of community service under the auspices of his Department; what discussions he has had on this matter; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Lee: We have no plans to establish a form of community service under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence.

Boarding School Allowance

Mr. Onslow asked the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to receive the report of the interdepartmental study of the effects on service men and other Government employees of the giving of boarding school allowance for tax purposes.

Mr. Lee: This matter is still under consideration by the relevant Departments. Thus, I cannot at present add to my statement of 29 January 1985 at column 146.

RAF Flying Time

Sir Hector Monro asked the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to impose restrictions on RAF training flying time during 1985-86; and what assessment he has made of the implications for pilot training courses.

Mr. Lee: In order to help contain RAF expenditure within the funding available for 1985-86 it will be necessary to impose some restrictions on general flying acivities. While this may necessitate some adjustment to the timing and content of certain flying training courses, the essential throughput of crews to the front line will be maintained.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Norman Shaw North Issue Office

Mr. White asked the Lord Privy Seal if the Services Committee will consider extending the opening hours of the Norman Shaw North issue office from 8.00 am to 10.00 pm; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. John Biffen: An extension of the opening hours of the Norman Shaw issue office would involve a number of problems of staffing and organisation. I do not believe that the current demand is sufficient to warrant the expense which would be incurred.

Members' Offices

Mr. White asked the Lord Privy Seal how many hon. Members have their offices in *(a)* the Norman Shaw South building, *(b)* the Cloisters, *(c)* 3 Deans yard, and *(d)* 2 Abbey gardens; and how this compares with each year since 1975.

Mr. Biffen: Fifty-eight hon. Members have their offices in Norman Shaw South building, 37 in the Cloisters, 25 in 3, Deans yard and 21 in 2, the Abbey gardens. This compares with:

	Norman Shaw South Building	*Cloisters*	*3, Deans yard*	*2, the Abbey gardens*
1975	Nil	36	24	23
1976	Nil	35	21	23
1977	18	37	21	23
1978	48	37	21	23
1979	52	38	23	29
1980	52	37	24	28
1981	53	37	24	28
1982	53	37	24	28
1983	61	38	28	23
1984	59	37	27	21

Private Members' Bills

Mr. White asked the Lord Privy Seal how many hours were spent on each Private Member's Bill which received the Royal Assent in each Session since 1955.

Mr. Biffen: The information requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Cervical Screening

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Lord Privy Seal if he will take steps to introduce annual cervical cancer screening for women who work in the Palace of Westminster.

Mr. Biffen: I have asked the Accommodation and Administration Sub-Committee of the Services Committee to examine the need for such a service and the feasibility of introducing it.

Foreign and Commonwealth Questions

Sir Peter Blaker asked the Lord Privy Seal whether any revision is proposed for the arrangements for Foreign and Commonwealth Office questions; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Biffen: As a result of representations from right hon. and hon. Members, and following consultations through the usual channels, it is proposed that after the Easter recess for an experimental period, oral questions to Foreign and Commonwealth Ministers will no longer be divided between those related to European Community affairs and those relating to the rest of the world. Questions on the European Community will be dealt with in the same way as those tabled on other matters. The present arrangements for answering Overseas Development questions will not be altered.

The experiment will last until the summer recess to allow an opportunity for its success to be evaluated. Further discussions will then take place through the usual channels to determine whether the new arrangements should become permanent.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Teachers (Pay)

Mr. Deakins asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what would be the equivalent of the employers' current percentage pay offer to teachers if each teacher were to be offered the same amount of money.

Sir Keith Joseph: Based on the latest assessment of pay costs by the employers' secretariat, it is estimated that the 4 per cent. pay offer if divided equally among all teachers in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in England and Wales, would produce an increase of about £390 per annum on basic pay for each full-time teacher.

Research Councils

Mr. Warren asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science if Her Majesty's Government will assist research councils to obtain commissioned research; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Brooke: The research councils are already free to undertake research on a contract basis, subject only to their following Government guidelines on charging. These guidelines are intended to ensure that the council's rates for commissioned research reflect the full cost of the work undertaken. Income from commissioned research to the five research councils is estimated to be some £80 million in 1984-85 or 12 per cent. of their total estimated gross expenditure. Most of the commissioned work which the research councils carry out is for Government Departments. In accordance with the customer-contractor principle set out in Cmnd. 5046 "Framework for Government R & D" (July 1972) each Government Department is individually responsible for defining its requirements for Research & Development to back its policy objectives and for commissioning research accordingly from the research councils. However, my right hon. Friend is consulted by his colleagues over any porposal to make significant changes in the scale of their commissioned research programmes.

Within the above figures, commissions from industry are estimated to be worth some £5 million in 1984-85. The Government's policy is to encourage the research councils to collaborate more closely with industry and generally to attract more funding from provate sector sources. To this end, the Government have announced the ending of the British Technology Group's right of first refusal to exploit the findings of research funded by the research councils and is introducing new arrangements which will give academic researchers greater incentive to exploit the commercial potential of their inventions.

My right hon. Friend, in announcing the grants-in aid for the research councils for 1985-86, explained that in some cases these grants-in-aid include money intended to help the council concerned to restructure. Such restructuring should increase the councils' flexibility and hence their ability to secure new commissions.

Heart Disease (Research)

Mr. Warren asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what will be the effect on research into heart disease if the Medical Research Council ceases funding of the British Regional Heart Study; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Brooke: Further information on risk factors in ischaemic heart disease, which might have resulted from an extension of funding of the cohort study in the British regional heart study, may not now be obtained unless an alternative source of funding to the Medical Research Council can be found. I understand that nevertheless the MRC has provided additional funds amounting to £30,000 to allow the analysis of the results of the cohort study to be completed.

The MRC makes a substantial contribution, with the universities and the medical research charities, to the support of research into cardio-vascular disease. In 1983-84 the council's expenditure on projects relevant to this type of disease amounted to £4·1 million, while a total of £10·3 million was spent on projects which might prove relevant.

Attendance and Welfare Services

Mr. Hanley asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science when he expects to issue the proposed circular on school attendance and educational welfare services; and if he will make a statement.

Sir Keith Joseph: Copies of the draft circular were sent yesterday to the local authority and teacher associations and other relevant organisations together with an invitation to them to comment by the end of June. The draft circular analyses the functions of education welfare services, recommends priorities and approaches for them to adopt, and invites authorities to review the services in their area. its main purpose is to focus the work of the services more sharply on school attendance. It announces my intention to seek detailed information from local authorities towards the end of next year about their arrangements for giving effect to the recommendations in the draft circular, and to set in hand national consultations on the training of education welfare officers. Copies of the document have been placed in the Library.

WALES

Williams Bros., Cross Hands

Mr. Denzil Davies asked the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what offers of alternative sites have been made to Williams Bros., Cross Hands, in consequence of his Department's plans to construct the Cross Hands bypass;

(2) whether, during its negotiations with Williams Bros., Cross Hands, in respect of plans to construct a bypass at Cross Hands, his Department was aware that the company intended to terminate its operations;

(3) what compensation has been negotiated with Williams Bros., Cross Hands, as a result of the plans to construct the Cross Hands bypass;

(4) when his Department informed Williams Bros., Cross Hands, that all its buildings would have to be demolished in order to construct the Cross Hands bypass.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: The firm would have first become formally aware that the road proposals would affect its premises when draft orders were published in 1981 and later when further draft orders, to provide for some amendments to the scheme, were published in 1983.

Our Department has been made aware that the firm intends to close though we understand that it has been offered an alternative site on the nearby industrial estate.

Compensation is still the subject of negotiation.

Cervical Screening

Mr. Barry Jones asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make funds available to co-ordinate, computerise and update the address system for the screening of cervical cancer in area health authorities in Wales as recommended by the current working party.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: A programme of computerising family practitioner committees' records is under way and is being centrally funded. South Glamorgan and Gwent FPCs already have computers and a further four committees will be provided with them by the end of 1985-86. This should facilitate both the initial call-up of women in the priority groups for screening and their subsequent recall. However, a working group comprising officials of the Department and representatives of the Health Service in Wales is being set up to examine and report on the effectiveness of the present arrangements which are detailed in WHC(81)19 and WHC(84)14. I shall consider what further action may be necessary in the light of the working group's findings.

THE ARTS

North-West England (Provision)

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State answering in respect of the Arts if he will list the successes of his Department in providing for the arts in the north-west of England in the last year.

Mr. Waldegrave [*pursuant to his reply,* 20 March 1985, c. *517*]: Provision for the performing arts in the north-west is in the hands of the Arts Council of Great Britain, North West Arts and Merseyside Arts. Eight major theatre companies, two symphony orchestras, a ballet company and a very wide range of other arts bodies are maintained in the region. The Arts Council also funded a sculpture exhibition at the Liverpool garden festival. Arts activities were well supported by most of the local authorities in the region.

The Arts Council will shortly announce the grant of additional development money to the two regional arts associations, and to arts bodies in the region, as a part of its "Glory of the Garden" strategy.

On 8 March, phase I of the "Tate in the North" project for a major gallery in Liverpool was announced. My right hon. and noble Friend is making £0·5 million available for this gallery.

TRANSPORT

Rail Closure Proposal (West Midlands)

Mr. Terry Davis asked the Secretary of State for Transport how many objections have been received to British Rail's proposal to close the line between Henley in Arden and Bearley junction.

Mr. David Mitchell: I understand that the transport users consultative committee for the west midlands has received over 7,000 objections to the proposal.

Departmental Accounting Procedures

Mr. Wainwright asked the Secretary of State for Transport what accounting developments are being made in his Department in order to give line managers better information about the cost and conditions of the capital assets they are helping to manage.

Mr. Ridley: The Department is developing management accounting systems for its major executive activities. Improvements have also been made to the technical and management procedures for assessing the current condition and cost of maintaining the capital assets, notably the national road system and its bridges.

EMPLOYMENT

Careers Services

Ms. Richardson asked the Secretary of State for Employment what steps are taken to ensure that those directly recruited through the statutory agencies to youth training schemes are notified to the careers services; and if he considers that sufficient information is given by the Manpower Services Commission to the careers services through the Spectrum computer system.

Mr. Peter Morrison: When a young person is recruited to the youth training scheme directly by a managing agent the Manpower Services Commission automatically notifies the careers office and jobcentre responsible for recruitment to that particular scheme.

The Manpower Services Commission and my Department are currently conducting a review of the arrangements whereby Spectrum information on young people entering the youth training scheme is sent by the commission to the local careers service.

Visual Display Units (Health Hazards)

Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for Employment whether he will institute research concerning health hazards caused through working with visual display units.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: The Health and Safety Executive is already engaged in a number of studies on the possible health problems from VDUs and further research is being considered.

Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for Employment what representations he has received concerning possible health hazards caused by working with visual display units.

Mr. Peter Bottomley: The Health and Safety Executive has received many inquiries, at national and local level, from employers, trade unions, members of the public and others about the possible health effects of VDUs.

Labour Statistics

Mr. Fatchett asked the Secretary of State for Employment if he will list for each West Yorkshire travel-to-work area *(a)* the total number of registered unemployed in January 1985, *(b)* the percentage of the population that represents, *(c)* the increase *(a)* and *(b)* represent over December 1984, *(d)* the number of unfilled vacancies at jobcentres in January 1985, *(e)* the comparative figures for January 1983 and *(f)* the comparative figures for January 1981.

Mr. Alan Clark: The available information, which is also in the Library, is as follows:

Travel-to-work area	*January 1985* *Total unemployed claimants*	*Percentage rate**	*Percentage increase since December 1984*
Bradford	32,003	15·9	3·7
Calderdale	10,398	13·3	4·5
Castleford and Pontefract	8,357	14·4	2·3
Huddersfield	11,423	13·8	3·9
Keighley	4,055	13·5	2·8
Leeds	42,742	13·1	4·6
Wakefield and Dewsbury	16,803	14·7	5·6

* Unemployed as a percentage of the sum of employed and unemployed, at June 1984.

Unfilled vacancies at jobcentres—West Yorkshire

	January 1985	*January 1983*	*January 1981*
Batley	46	45	22
Bingley	62	39	17
Bradford	710	674	281
Bramley	81	131	64
Brighouse	70	37	32
Castleford	66	64	97
Crossgates	52	46	*—
Dewsbury	180	113	71
Elland	28	17	15
Halifax	230	165	96
Hemsworth	10	11	7
Horsforth	52	59	33
Huddersfield	251	164	137
Hunslet	77	105	37
Keighley	116	93	79
Knottingly	27	23	11
Leeds	798	824	447
Morley	103	103	37
Normanton	27	22	15
Otley	75	63	44
Pontefract	65	65	41
Rothwell	29	41	3
Seacroft	20	41	24
Shipley	144	65	25
South Elmsall	6	21	9
Sowerbybridge	10	19	13
Spen Valley	48	48	35
Todmorden	41	25	7
Wakefield	241	244	126
Wetherby	43	74	67
Yeadon	74	74	37

* Crossgates jobcentre opened on 2 February 1981.

PRIME MINISTER

President Mubarak

Mr. Latham asked the Prime Minister whether she will make a statement on her meeting with the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Prime Minister: I had useful talks with President Mubarak of Egypt on 14 March: these reflected the excellent state of Anglo-Egyptian relations. We had a full discussion of Arab-Israel peace efforts. I expressed the Government's support for the President's efforts, and those of King Hussein, to make progress towards a negotiated settlement. We both expressed acute concern about the situation in Lebanon, and in Sudan.

Ministry of Technology

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Prime Minister what representations she has received from the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors about the case for a Ministry of Technology.

The Prime Minister: I have received no such representations.

Limited List Prescribing

Mr. McNamara asked the Prime Minister if she will list the differences between the regulations introducing a limited list of drugs prescribable on the National Health Service *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in Scotland; if she will explain the reasons for these differences; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: There are three main differences between the schedules of products not prescribable under the National Health Service in the regulations introducing the selected list in *(a)* England and Wales, and *(b)* Scotland. Vicks Coldcare capsules and Guaiphenesin syrup have been omitted from the Scottish schedule; Vicks inhaler has been omitted from the English and Welsh one. These differences and a number of minor spelling mistakes are all typographical errors. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Social Services has already told the House that amending regulations will be laid to correct these errors.

Official Papers (Disclosure)

Mr. Warren asked the Prime Minister if she considers each application for an extension of the 30-year list in the disclosure of official papers; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: Under section 5(1) of the Public Records Act 1958, as amended, applications for extended closure of records are considered by the Lord Chancellor. The criteria for longer periods than that of 30 years are set out in Cmnd. 8531 and are as follows:

i) exceptionally sensitive papers, the disclosure of which would be contrary to the public interest whether on security or other grounds (including the need to safeguard the Revenue);
ii) documents containing information supplied in confidence the disclosure of which would or might constitute a breach of good faith;
iii) documents containing information about individuals the disclosure of which would cause distress to or endanger living persons or their immediate descendants.

Supplementary Employment Grant

Mr. Alfred Morris asked the Prime Minister what consideration she has given to the proposals, sent to her in January by the Association of Directors of Social Services, for a new form of supplementary employment grant for the employment of additional staff to care for the elderly, the sick, the physically and mentally handicapped, the mentally ill and other needful groups; what response she is making; if there is any action she will be taking; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister: The proposals have been given careful consideration by my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Employment and Health and Social Security and a reply will be sent to the association shortly.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Sir Philip Holland asked the Prime Minister if Her Majesty's Government have any plans as part of their present policy of reducing the number of non-departmental public bodies to abolish the Commission for Racial Equality, the Community Projects Foundation, the consumer councils, the development corporations, the Equal Opportunities Commission, the industrial training boards, and the research councils; and if she will make a statement.

The Prime Minister [*pursuant to her reply*, 21 March 1985, c. *570*]: Target dates have been announced for the abolition of all new town development corporations in England and Wales. The New Town Development Corporations in Scotland and the Urban Development Corporations in England will be abolished when the tasks for which they were set up have been completed. The Government have no plans to abolish the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Commission for Racial Equality, the Community Projects Foundation, the National Consumer Council, the Nationalised Industry Consumers' Councils, the research councils and the remaining industrial training boards. But all these bodies are subject to thorough examination at intervals in accordance with the new review arrangements for non-departmental public bodies which I announced on 19 November 1984 at column 57.

NATIONAL FINANCE

Unit Labour Costs

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the change in unit labour costs since *(a)* May 1979 and *(b)* January 1983 to the latest available date in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, West Germany and Japan.

Mr. Peter Rees: I refer the hon. Member to the "Main Economic Indicators", including the "Historical Statistics", published by the OECD.

Pound (Value)

Mr. White asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the real value of the pound sterling at the latest date, compared with its value on 1 March 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984, respectively.

Mr. Ian Stewart: The value of sterling on the dates referred to, expressed as an index against the basket of major currencies (£ ERI), was as follows:

*£ sterling exchange rate index 1975 = 100**

Date	
1 March 1975	105·1
1 March 1976	95·4
1 March 1977	80·7
1 March 1978	84·4
1 March 1979	82·9
29 February 1980†	73·2
27 February 1981†	98·9
1 March 1982	91·9
1 March 1983	80·0
1 March 1984	82·9
18 March 1985‡	72·5

* Unless stated otherwise, all figures are based on closing London market rates.

† 1 March fell on a weekend.

‡ Noon index.

Post-tax Profits

Mr. McKelvey asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish a table in the *Official Report* showing the post-tax profits of the following sectors expressed as a percentage of gross national product in 1970, 1975, 1980 and the latest available date *(a)* manufacturing industry, *(b)* financial institutions, and *(c)* oil companies.

Mr. Peter Rees [*pursuant to his reply*, 18 March 1985, c. *397*]: I regret that information is not available in the form requested.

CIVIL SERVICE

Senior Civil Servants

Mr. Eggar asked the Minister for the Civil Service if he will list by Department the number of civil servants at principal and assistant secretary level who have resigned voluntarily from the service in each of the years 1980 to 1984; and if he will state their age at date of resignation and number of years service.

Mr. Hayhoe: I shall let my hon. Friend have a reply as soon as possible.

Asset Registers

Mr. Wainwright asked the Minister for the Civil Service, in respect of the current study by the Management and Personnel Office of asset registers, what types of assets are covered, which Departments are expected to benefit, and when the study will be completed.

Mr. Hayhoe: The only current study by the Management and Personnel Office which touches on this area is the multi-Department review of the management of

Government office accommodation in Departments, which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced on 1 August 1984 at column 263. But this review is covering only inventories of furniture and other minor items. It is expected to be complete by May 1985 and its recommendations, if accepted, will be applicable to all Departments.

ENERGY

Departmental Staff

Mr. Deakins asked the Secretary of State for Energy how many of the officials, including scientists, who advise him on nuclear energy matters, in each grade from principal upwards, have previously worked in the nuclear power industry and how many officials have left his Department in the past 10 years to take up jobs in the nuclear power industry.

Mr. Peter Walker: Four officials in the Department of Energy who advise me on nuclear energy matters have previously worked in the nuclear power industry, assuming this to include the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority but not the electricity supply industry. These are one grade 3, one grade 6 and two principal scientific officers. The Department will also shortly be employing, on a temporary basis, a number of consultants, some of whom will have worked in the nuclear power industry, to advise on the content and monitoring of the AEA's research and development programmes following the outcome of the AEA Review which were announced on 11 February 1985 at columns 30-33.

No official has left the Department to take up a job in the nuclear power industry in the past 10 years. (Sir Walter Marshall was already deputy chairman of the AEA when he ceased to be the chief scientist at the Department in 1977.)

Nuclear Reprocessing Plants

Mr. Deakins asked the Secretary of State for Energy which United Kingdom nuclear reprocessing plants *(a)* are and *(b)* are not subject to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. Goodlad: No reprocessing plants in the United Kingdom are currently subject to routine inspection by the IAEA.

The reprocessing plant at Dounreay was at one time designated for routine inspection but the agency has chosen to remove it from the list of designated facilities.

Plutonium

Mr. Deakins asked the Secretary of State for Energy if he is satisfied that all plutonium produced in the United Kingdom is properly accounted for; and what procedures are adopted in the event of discrepancies being discovered.

Mr. Goodlad: All users of civil plutonium are required by community safeguards legislation to account for all inventory changes to the Euratom safeguards directorate, and to make routine declarations of such changes.

In addition the United Kingdom has published figures for material unaccounted for at UKAEA and BNFL sites on an annual basis since 1977. These figures show no adverse trends and give rise to no concern over either safety or security of operations at United Kingdom sites.

SCOTLAND

Students, Apprentices and Trainees

Sir Brandon Rhys Williams asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish figures showing for 1982-83, 1983-84 and an estimate for 1984-85, the numbers of *(a)* full-time students, *(b)* part-time students, *(c)* full-time trainees, *(d)* apprentices and *(e)* trainees on day release courses.

Mr. Allan Stewart: Information for 1982-83 and 1983-84 is given in the following table. Estimates are not yet available for 1984-85. Information on full-time trainees is not available.

Students and Trainees	*1982-83*	*1983-84*
(a) Full-time students	103,200	103,500
(b) Part-time students (excluding those on day release courses)	118,100	116,700
(d) Apprentices	*50,800	
(e) Trainees on day release courses	65,300	61,900

* Number at Spring 1983 (1983 Labour Force Survey).

Housing

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will give the number of houses in *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Scotland which lack the following amenities (i) inside sanitation, (ii) a fixed bath or shower or (iii) a wash-hand basin.

Mr. Ancram: The numbers of households in permanent dwellings lacking amenities are as follows:

	Glasgow	*Scotland*
Households lacking:		
(a) inside sanitation (WC)	2,629	16,175
(b) fixed bath or shower	9,868	38,403

Source: 1981 Census.

Information on the numbers of households lacking a wash-hand basin is not available.

Solvent Abuse

Mr. White asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he is satisfied with the working of the Solvent Abuse (Scotland) Act 1983; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. John MacKay: Considerable use is being made of the Act in areas where solvent abuse has been regarded as a particular problem. More time will be required, however, to assess the effectiveness of the Act in relation to the reported incidence of this practice.

Students (Fees)

Mrs. McCurley asked the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he will announce the fees to be charged to students attending Scottish institutions other than universities in the academic year 1985-86.

Mr. Younger: For the academic year 1985-86, I have prescribed the following fee levels for home students and for students from other European Community countries on full-time advanced courses in the central institutions and the colleges of education (fees for 1984-85 are shown in parentheses):

	£	£
Postgraduate courses	1,632	(1,569)
Undergraduate and equivalent courses	520	(500)

Fees for home and European Community students on courses at local authority colleges are the responsibility of the local authorities. I understand that the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities has decided to recommend fees as follows:

	£	£
Postgraduate courses	1,632	(1,569)
Advanced full-time courses	520	(500)
Non-advanced full-time courses	265	(220)

For overseas students the Government's policy is that students who began their courses on or after 1 September 1980 should pay fees that cover the cost of their education. Local authorities and institutions are free to determine the fees to be charged in accordance with that policy, and in the light of their own circumstances.

I understand that the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities has decided to recommend to local authorities the following fees for students at local authority colleges paying the overseas rate who began their courses on or after 1 September 1980.

	£
Advanced courses	3,310
Non-advanced courses	1,820

Any students still on courses that began before 1 September 1980 remain entitled to a subsidised rate of fee. Maximum fees for such students were specified in the Education (Fees and Awards) (Amendment) Act 1984. As there will be few, if any, such students left by 1985-86, I have decided not to revise the fee maxima further. They will therefore remain as follows:

	£
Postgraduate courses	2,148
Undergraduate courses	1,653
Non-advanced (full-time) courses	885

Assisted Places Scheme

Mrs. McCurley asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what parental income scale will apply to the assisted places scheme in school session 1985-86.

Mr. Younger: I propose to lay regulations before the House in due course providing for progressive parental contributions in relation to family income. Examples of the proposed income scales are as follows:

Relevant income £	*Parental contribution* £
6,376	Nil
6,410	18
6,500	24
7,000	78
7,500	144
8,000	219
8,500	300
9,000	405
9,500	510
10,000	615
10,500	732
11,000	852
11,500	972
12,000	1,092
12,500	1,233
13,000	1,398
13,500	1,563
14,000	1,728
14,500	1,893
15,000	2,058

The relevant income scale is open ended but fee remission can of course be given only where the parental contribution is less than the school tuition fees.

Local Authority Expenditure

Mr. Gordon Brown asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish a table showing for local authority current expenditure for each of the years 1978-79 to 1987-88 expenditure both as an amount and as a percentage change cover 1978-79 expressed in *(a)* cash, *(b)* volume and *(c)* cost terms.

Mr. Younger [*pursuant to his reply*, 21 March 1985, c. *611*]: The information is as follows:

	1978-79	*1979-80*	*1980-81*	*1981-82*	*1982-83*	*1983-84*	*1984-85*	*1985-86*	*1986-87*	*1987-88*
(a) Cash terms										
Total expenditure (£ million)	1,428	1,704	2,155	2,402	2,578	2,738	2,873	2,889	(2,929)	(2,958)
Growth from 1978-79 (per cent.)	—	+19·3	+50·9	+68·2	+80·5	+91·7	+101·2	+102·3	—	—
(b) Volume Terms (November 1984 prices)										
Total expenditure (£ million)	2,801	2,835	2,877	2,837	2,817	2,859	2,874	—	—	—
Growth from 1978-79 (per cent.)	—	+1·2	+2·7	+1·3	+0·6	+2·1	+2·6	—	—	—
(c) Cost terms (1983-84 prices)										
Total expenditure (£ million)	2,425	2,475	2,639	2,675	2,692	2,738	2,743	2,639	(2,573)	(2,517)
	—	+2·1	+8·8	+10·3	+11·0	+12·9	+13·1	+3·8	—	—

Notes:

1. The figures for 1978-79 to 1983-84 are final or near final outturns: those for 1984-85 are authorities' budget estimates. The figures for 1985-86 to 1987-88 are the Government's provision for forward years.
2. All figures, except those for 1986-87 and 1987-88, are on the basis of relevant expenditure for rate support grant purposes, excluding loan charges. The figures for 1986-87 and 1987-88 also exclude provision for capital financed from current revenue and interest on revenue balances, the precise amounts of which are yet to be determined. It is therefore not possible to compare figures for these two years with those for 1978-79.
3. The cash figures to 1984-85 have been converted to November 1984 prices using factors agreed with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. It is not possible to convert cash information for later years on the same basis.
4. Cost terms figures are cash outturns, plans or provision adjusted to a 1983-84 price base using the GDP deflator.

ENVIRONMENT

Housing

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what requests for additional resources to be spent on housing to reduce overcrowding and substandard living conditions he has received from each of the metropolitan county councils.

Sir George Young; My right hon. Friend has received a number of requests from local housing authorities for additional housing investment programme resources but none from metropolitan county councils, which are not housing authorities.

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what provisions he intends to make for the replacement of older housing as it outlives its economically usable life; and what guidelines he intends to issue to housing authorities to ensure that best value and habitable life from dwelling stocks result from housing investment programmes.

Sir George Young: It is for individual authorities to decide on their own priorities for housing investment within the total resources available to them. The balance to be struck between rehabilitation and demolition followed by a new building will be discussed in the consultation paper following the Government's recent review of improvement policy, which will be published shortly.

Local Authorities (Government Communications)

Dr. Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish *(a)* the circulars, *(b)* the circular letters, *(c)* the statutory instruments (standing orders) and *(d)* other communications, sent to all authorities, or all authorities in a class, by his Department in England in each year for 1981-82 to 1984-85.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: I shall answer this question shortly.

Agricultural Rating (Yield)

Dr. Cunningham asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish his Department's most recent estimate of the likely yield of rating on agricultural land and buildings.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin: Some £360 million, based on the average non-domestic rate poundage for England and Wales in 1984-85. However, the figure is likely to exaggerate the total cost of agricultural derating since rate poundages in agricultural areas are generally lower than the national average.

House of Commons (Contract Cleaners)

Mr. Corbyn asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the companies currently involved in the cleaning of the House of Commons.

Sir George Young: There is only one company, Exclusive Cleaning and Maintenance (London) Ltd., currently engaged in the internal cleaning of the House.

Bluebell Railway

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg asked the Secretary of State for the Environment on what dates the public inquiry into the planning aspects of the proposed extension of the Bluebell Railway took place; on what date the inspector delivered his report to him; and when he expects to announce his decision.

Mr. Macfarlane: The public inquiry was held between 21 June and 6 July 1983. The inspector considered jointly the planning appeal submitted to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment and also an application for a light railway order made to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport. The inspector's report, which dealt with both matters, was received on 2 November 1983. It is expected that the decision letters relating to both the planning appeal and the light railway order will be dispatched in the near future.

Council House Sales

Mr. Gregory asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will list the number of sales completed under the right to buy or voluntary procedures for each year since 1979 to the latest available date by York city council; and how this level of sales compares with the national average.

Sir George Young: Sales in the years 1980-81 to 1983-84 reported by York, appear in issues 62, 63, 67 and 71 respectively of "Local Housing Statistics"; copies are available in the Library. In 1979-80, 164 dwellings were sold and in April to December 1984 161.

Total sales from April 1979 to December 1984 were 1,414, equivalent to 13 per cent. of York's council housing stock at April 1984: in England as a whole, local authority sales were 13·6 per cent. of its April 1984 stock.

Departmental Housing Booklet

Mr. Lawrance asked the Secretary of State for the Environment when he intends to make his Department's housing booklet No. 18, "Housing Defects: Help for Private Owners," available to local authorities.

Mr. Gow: My Department is consulting the local authority associations on the text of the booklet and I hope that it will be published shortly.

Domestic Rates

Mr. Stephen Ross asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish in the *Official Report* the average rate poundage for Conservative-controlled county councils for the years 1981-82 and 1985-86.

Mr. Kenneth Baker: The average precept poundage for county councils that are Conservative-controlled was 112·9p in 1981-82 and is estimated to be 148·5p in 1985-86.

Mr. Stephen Ross asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish in the *Official Report* the average rate poundage for all county councils on England for the years 1981-82 and 1985-86.

Mr. Kenneth Baker: The available information is as follows:

	1981-82	*1985-86*
Non-metropolitan county councils	114·7p*	157·3p
Metropolitan county councils	39·2p*	55·1p

* Including any supplementary precepts levied.

Mr. Stephen Ross asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish in the *Official Report* the rate poundage fixed by the Isle of Wight county council for the years 1981-82 and 1985-86; and what percentage increase over these four years they represent.

Mr. Kenneth Baker: The Isle of Wight county precept was 113·5p in 1981-82 and has been set at 157·0p for 1985-86. This represents a 38 per cent. increase over the four-year period.

Mr. Stephen Ross asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will publish in the *Official Report* the percentage increase in rate poundage approved by the conservative-controlled county councils between the years 1981-82 and 1985-86.

Mr. Kenneth Baker: The available information is as follows:

Percentage increases in precept poundages by Conservative-controlled county councils between 1981-82 and 1985-86

	per cent.
Buckinghamshire	26·1
Cambridgeshire	27·0
Devon	36·2
Dorset	25·2
East Sussex	30·4
Essex	38·2
Hampshire	28·5
Hereford and Worcester	29·6
Hertfordshire	35·7
Kent	30·0
Lincolnshire	24·8
Norfolk	33·3
North Yorkshire	32·5
Oxfordshire	29·1
Somerset	26·7
Suffolk	26·1
Surrey	36·6
West Sussex	31·2
Wiltshire	36·1

Mr. Stephen Ross asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the average amount charged to a householder for general rates in the city of Chichester, West Sussex, the boroughs of Camden and Westminster and the borough of Medina, Isle of Wight in the year 1984-85.

Mr. Kenneth Baker: Estimates are as follows:

Average domestic rate bills in 1984-85

	£
Chichester	282
Camden	723
Westminster	701
Medina	252

House of Commons Sittings (Cost)

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if he will update the figures given in reply to the hon. Member for Cheltenham (Mr. Irving), *Official Report*, 25 April 1984, column *526*, regarding the total additional cost to his Department of the House sitting from *(a)* 10.30 pm to midnight and *(b)* from midnight to 2 am; and if he will give similar estimates for such periods after 2 am as figures are conveniently available.

Sir George Young [*pursuant to his reply*, 21 March 1985]: The figures for additional labour costs to my Department given in my answer of 25 April 1984 remain valid. After 2 am additional labour costs amount to £30 per hour until the normal day staff come on duty. The additional heating and lighting costs are now estimated to be about £345 for the period between 11 pm and midnight, and £135 per hour after midnight.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Relative Export Prices

Mr. Gould asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he will publish in the *Official Report* the change in relative export prices each year from 1955 onwards based on 1970 weights compared with the latest figure, together with the ratio of the annual percentage growth of imports to the percentage growth of exports of manufactures.

Mr. Channon: Data prior to 1963 are not readily available, and to derive UK relative export prices based on 1970 weights would incur disproportionate cost. The available information based on 1980=100 is in the table.

UK Trade in Manufactures

	Relative Export Prices: changes to 1984Q3 Per cent.	*Volume Indices 1980=100*		
		Imports	*Exports*	*Import/ Export Ratio*
1963	+6·7	23	47	49
1964	+6·6	28	49	57
1965	+4·0	28	52	54
1966	+1·6	29	54	54
1967	+3·0	33	53	62
1968	+9·5	39	60	65
1969	+10·3	41	68	60
1970	+9·0	44	68	65
1971	+6·7	47	74	64
1972	+6·6	56	74	76
1973	+15·8	67	84	80
1974	+18·1	71	88	81
1975	+13·2	67	86	78
1976	+16·8	73	93	78
1977	+10·6	80	100	80
1978	+4·3	89	100	89
1979	−2·5	101	99	102
1980	−11·9	100	100	100
1981	−10·1	98	94	104
1982	−4·9	106	95	112
1983	−2·1	119	94	127
1984	..	130	102	127

British Leyland (Bathgate Plant)

Mr. Dalyell asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with British Leyland on the future of its Bathgate plant.

Mr. Butcher: The closure of Bathgate was proposed by the BL board in its 1984 corporate plan, which was discussed in detail between the Department of Trade and Industry and BL. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of

State for Scotland has subsequently had regular and continuing discussions with the company about future uses for the facilities concerned.

Telecommunications (Criggion)

Mr. Alex Carlile asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement as to the nature of telecommunications facilities at Criggion.

Mr. Butcher: The nature of the telecommunications facilities at Criggion is the responsibility of British Telecommunications plc.

British Aerospace

Mr. Moynihan asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement about the costs of the intended sale of shares in British Aerospace.

Mr. Pattie: Progress on the sale of the Government's shareholding in British Aerospace was reported on 13 March in a written answer to my hon. Friend the Member for South Ribble (Mr. Atkins) at columns *150-51*. Pending parliamentary approval of the necessary estimates urgent payments in connection with preliminary and main sale expenses will be met from repayable advances from the Contingencies Fund.

British Telecom Shares

Mr. Gould asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if he made it a condition of the placing of British Telecom shares with Kleinwort Benson prior to privatisation that no employees of the firm should deal in the shares on their own account;

(2) if, before settling his final account with Kleinwort Benson in respect of the privatisation of British Telecom, he will seek from the firm information on the number of its employees who used the firm's facilities to deal on their own account in the shares.

Mr. Butcher [*pursuant to the reply,* 18 March 1985, c. *346*]: It has not been the Government's practice to seek to impose restrictions on applications by employees of principal advisers in share issues and this was not made a condition for Kleinwort Benson or any other professional advisers in the British Telecom sale. Kleinwort Benson's own policy was to allow employees to apply for British Telecom shares on the same basis as members of the public. The employees were subject to the same basis of allocation as the public and no employees received more than 800 shares.

BL Cars

Mr. Grylls asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he is satisfied with the progress made by the BL board in carrying out its intention stated in September 1983 of seeking further private sector funds over the next two years within its mainstream business; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Butcher [*pursuant to the reply,* 20 March 1985, c. *505*]: I am pleased with the privatisation of Jaguar in July 1984 and look forward to further progess in the privatisation of BL when I shall make statements as appropriate.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Drug Addiction

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what research he has conducted to investigate whether fears expressed by drugs specialists that television advertising campaigns against drug addiction could lead to more youngsters experimenting with drugs are well founded.

Mr. John Patten: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Mr. Murphy) on 18 March at columns *376-78*.

Personal Social Services

Ms. Harriet Harman asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what was the rate of change in real net personal social services spending for each of the years 1979-80 to 1984-85; and what was the average annual rate of such change over that period as a whole for each of the following categories of social services authorities *(a)* all such authorities, *(b)* rate-capped authorities, *(c)* authorities in penalty but not rate-capped in 1985-86, *(d)* rate-capped authorities and authorities in penalty in 1985-86 and *(e)* authorities which are neither rate-capped nor in penalty in 1985-86, giving outturn figures where available and budget estimates otherwise.

Mr. John Patten: The rate of change in personal social services net current expenditure by all local authorities in England for each year from 1979-80 to 1984-85 is as follows:

	Cash (per cent.)	*Economic cost (per cent.)*
1979-80 to 1980-81	+23·8	+4·5
1980-81 to 1981-82	+10·9	+0·9
1981-82 to 1982-83	+9·8	+2·9
1982-83 to 1983-84	+8·2	+3·6
1983-84 to 1984-85	+7·4	+2·5

Details of local authority budgets for 1985-86 are not yet available, so it is not possible to give information relating to authorities budgeting to incur penalties in 1985-86. Average annual rates of change 1979-80 to 1984-85 for the other categories listed are as follows:

	Cash (per cent.)	*Economic cost (per cent.)*
Rate-capped authorities	+16·4	+3·9
Non rate-capped authorities	+14·8	+2·9
All English authorities	+15·0	+3·0

Kidney Machines

Mr. Eldon Griffiths asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many kidney machines can be purchased for the National Health Service for £1 million.

Mr. John Patten: The capital cost of a kidney machine is between £6,000 and £8,000 according to specifications, so the number that could be purchased for £1 million would be between 125 and 167. The major cost of haemodialysis provision is, however, the revenue expenditure on staffing, drugs, fluids and other consumables. Machines may be used by more than one patient, but the revenue cost of each patient is in the region of £10,000 a year and can be as high as £16,000.

War Widows

Mr. Penhaligon asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will list, for the district authorities of Devon and Cornwall, such information as he has about the individual councils' policies regarding the disregard of war widows' pensions when making calculations for rent and rate rebates.

Mr. Whitney: Under the housing benefit regulations all local authorities are required to disregard the first £4 of a war widow's pension or war disablement pension when assessing a rent or rate rebate. They have discretion to disregard a higher amount under a local variation of the statutory scheme. Information on how that discretion is used by individual authorities is not collected centrally.

Benefits

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what steps he intends to take to improve computer systems in his Department's offices dealing with benefits payable to pensioners, war pensioners and parents receiving family allowances.

Mr. Whitney: Our plans to improve the administration of the social security programme through the application of new technology are embraced within the social security operational strategy, on which a consultative document was published in 1982. This is a managerial and conceptual framework within which a series of projects, involving both the improvement of existing computer systems and the design of new ones, are being developed.

The payment and record-keeping of retirement pensions and widows' pensions and of child benefit are at present handled centrally by the Department's computer installation at Newcastle. The computer system for dealing with retirement pensions and widow's pensions is currently being redesigned to provide assessment as well as payment services starting in 1988. The child benefit system will be similarly redesigned to give an improved service in the early part of the next decade. In the meantime work is well advanced on two small scale projects to provide staff in Newcastle central office with on-line access to the records of recipients of these benefits and on the computerisation of the child benefit index. These will provide a better inquiry facility and a more efficient service.

Work on war pensions is handled centrally by a computer system at the Department's North Fylde central office and we have no plans at present for major changes to the system.

Pensioners and child benefit recipients may also receive supplementary benefit which is paid through local offices. For our plans to introduce computer systems to these offices I refer the hon. Member to my reply to her on 7 March at column *602*.

Newham General Hospital

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) how often wards in Newham general hospital have been closed; for what period; and for what reasons;

(2) how many wards in Newham general hospital have been closed in each week since the hospital opened;

(3) how many consultant geriatricians are based at Newham general hospital;

(4) how many agency staff, and in what jobs, have been employed in Newham general hospital in each week since the hospital opened.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: We do not collect detailed local information of this kind centrally. The hon. Member may wish to contact the Newham health authority for the details he requires.

Geriatric Care (Newham)

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many elderly people in the London borough of Newham are awaiting admission for geriatric hospital care.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: On 30 September 1984, the latest date for which information is available, there were no recorded inpatient waiting list cases in Newham health authority for admission to the specialty of geriatric medicine.

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many geriatric beds are available, and in which hospitals, in the London borough of Newham.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The latest available figures are given in the table.

NHS hospitals run by Newham District Health Authority with beds available in the specialty of geriatric medicine

Hospital	*Average daily number of available beds in 1983*
Plaistow Hospital	88·0
St. Andrew's Hospital*	84·3
Albert Dock Seaman's Hospital	0·1
Total	172·4

* Located outside the London Borough of Newham.

Mr. Tony Banks asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many beds in Newham general hospital have been used for private patients in each week since the hospital opened.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: From the opening of the hospital in June 1983 to the end of that year, there were six private inpatient cases treated in Newham general hospital.

Mobility Allowance

Mr. Clay asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) if he has any plans to change the upper age limit for initial claims for mobility allowance;

(2) if he has any plans to change the upper age limit for eligibility to claim mobility allowance.

Mr. Newton: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Mr. Latham) on 4 February at column *452*.

Social Security Payments (Savings)

Mr. Campbell-Savours asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) what is his estimate of the savings in social security payments which will partly offset the cost of the employment and training proposals for 16 and 17-year-olds, set out in the Budget statement;

(2) if he will detail the areas identified for savings in social security payments which will partly offset the cost of the employment and training proposals for 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds set out in the Budget statement.

Mr. Whitney: The Government's decision to promote a substantial expansion of the youth training scheme will diminish the need for young people to claim supplementary benefit. There will be reductions in social security expenditure, therefore, as 16 and 17-year-olds take up places under the expanded youth training scheme and receive training allowances or wages instead of supplementary benefit. The current estimate of the savings in supplementary benefit is £65 million in 1986-87 and £130 million in 1987-88.

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SERIES **VOLUME 75**

SESSION 1984–85

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SCOPE OF THE INDEX, ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS

This index is derived from the House of Commons Library's Parliamentary On-Line Information System (POLIS), and the subject terms used are based on those used in POLIS. There are often changes in column numbering, etc., between the daily part or weekly Hansard (which simply collects together the daily parts without revision) and the bound volume. The index for the bound volume is revised to take account of these changes.

Scope and arrangement of the Index

Oral and Written Parliamentary Questions are indexed under subject headings and the names of Members asking and Ministers replying to them. Questions are not listed under the names of Departments replying. Departmental listings can be arrived at indirectly by looking under the names of the Minister(s) of that Department. There will, however, be headings 'Northern Ireland', 'Scotland', and 'Wales' under which one will find not only most Questions answered by the Northern Ireland Office, Scottish Office, Welsh Office but also Questions about these areas of the United Kingdom which are answered by other Departments. Ministerial statements are indexed under subject headings, under 'Ministerial statements' and the names of Ministers making them and Members speaking on them. General debates are indexed under broad subject headings and under the names of all Members and Ministers taking part. Debates on legislation (Bills, Orders, Regulations etc.) are indexed under the name of the Bill, Statutory Instrument etc., under subject headings and under the names of those taking part.

Rulings and Statements by Mr. Speaker and his deputies are brought together under the heading 'Speakers ruling and statement'.

Other contributions by Mr. Speaker and his deputies appear under the heading 'Speaker'.

Opposition Day Debates, Estimates Day Debates and Standing Order No. 10 applications are listed under those respective headings and under subject headings too.

The date of each item except Parliamentary Questions is inserted immediately before the reference.

Members' names are given in the form by which they prefer to be known and are printed in bold italics. Under their names, entries are arranged under one of the two headings *Debates etc.* (to include interventions on statements, points of order and so on) or *Questions*.

Abbreviations

Bills 1R=first reading, 2R=second reading, Money res=money resolution, Com=Committee stage, Rep=Report stage, 3R=third reading, amendt/amendts=amendment/amendments, *=matter taken formally, without debate.

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